WORLD / A21

US threatened to bomb Pakistan after 9/11

NEWS / A2

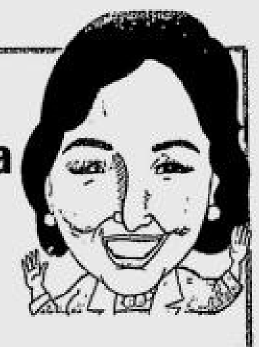
'Fascist' Esperon pelted with eggs, mud by UP students

SPORTS / A23

Red Lions nip Dolphins, break 28-year NCAA championship drought

SAT. SPECIAL / E1

Why Nida Blanca is a tough act to follow



No makeup, no long nails for women cops

MAS DISTRACTING ANG PANGIT NA PULIS!

By Nancy Carvajal

POLICEWOMEN WHO WEAR makeup, dangling earrings and who flash long, colored nails are committing an offense and may be sanctioned.

NO MAKEUP/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
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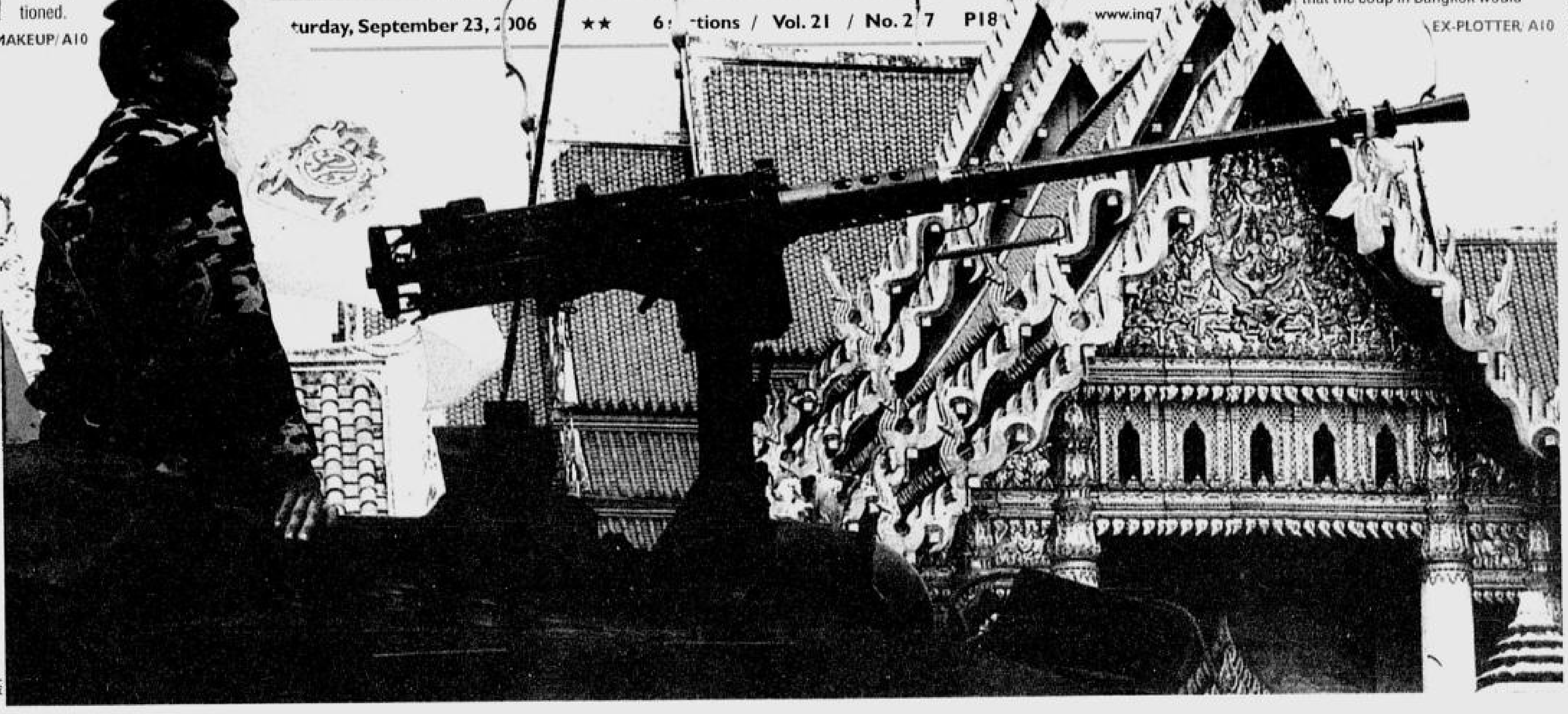
turday, September 23, 2006 ★★ 6 tions / Vol. 21 / No. 2 7 P18 www.inq7

Ex-plotter sees no parallel coup in RP

By Norman Bordadora, Philip C. Tubeza and Nikko Dizon

THE ISSUES OF CHEATING AND corruption may have rocked both the Philippine and Thai governments at some point, but according to a political analyst, it is unlikely that the coup in Bangkok would

EX-PLOTTER/ A10



IN CONTROL A soldier and his machine gun sit atop a tank in front of Bangkok's Marble Temple as Thailand's ruling generals, who seized power in bloodless coup earlier this week, tightened their grip on power with tough new curbs on media. The junta said it was close to naming a new prime minister. AFP

Junta close to picking PM

Thai coup leaders line up top bets to head new gov't

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S MILITARY COUP LEADERS ARE close to naming a civilian prime minister and he is likely to be a lawyer able to steer political reform, not the expected economist, Air Force chief Chalit Phukpasuka said yesterday.

A new constitution was the top priority, which meant legal expertise was the main requirement, he told reporters three days after the military took over. He said the military would appoint a civilian prime minister within two weeks before stepping back.

"He should have the best expertise in law because our goal is to amend the constitution," said Chalit, one of the military chiefs who took power on Tuesday to oust billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra while he was out of the country.

"The economy can be looked after by a deputy prime minister."

The new favorite for the job of producing a constitution without the flaws Thaksin was accused of exploiting to give himself near-dictatorial powers was Supreme Administrative Court President Ackaratorn Chularat.

Chalit confirmed Ackaratorn was a candidate, but declined to elaborate. Ackaratorn said he had not been approached and refused to say whether he would take the job if offered to him.

Speculation had centered on former World Trade Organization chief Supachai Panitchpakdi and central bank boss Pridiyathorn Devakula, respected men thought most likely to assure the world that Thailand's export-dependent economy was in good hands.

The military said it had been forced into Tuesday's coup because there was no other way out of a crisis that pitted Thaksin, twice an election winner in a landslide, against the old guard and

JUNTA/ A10

There's still hope for RP, 3 young leaders find

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IN THESE YOUNG LEADERS LIES PROOF of hope in the Philippines.

Dr. Maria Corazon Abogado de Ungria breaks ground in forensic science. Maj. Dennis Eclarin brings microfinance to remote towns in the country while serving the Philippine Army. Ariel C. Hernandez nurtures a culture of peace in war-torn Mindanao.

The three are among the 10 young leaders who took part in the recently concluded 1st Philippines 21 Young Leaders Forum organized by Asia Society-Philippines and the HSBC. All 10 leaders will represent the country in the Asia 21 Young Leaders Forum in Seoul, South Korea, where they will meet and discuss issues with other young leaders from Asia and the Pacific.

De Ungria heads the DNA Analysis Laboratory of the University of the Philippines in Diliman—fondly referred to as the Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit of the Philippines—spearheading efforts to use forensic DNA technology in the country.

The strength of DNA-based evidence in solving crimes is well- established in developed countries. Its full recognition in Philippine criminal cases has a long way to go, according to De Ungria, despite the fact that the technology and expertise are already available.

This is where she hopes the DNA Analysis Laboratory can come in.

It is in the laboratory where De Ungria and her nine-man team analyze biological evidence—such as semen and blood samples from rape victims or decomposing body parts of victims of disasters.

THERE'S STILL/ A8

SC gag order a big puzzle to senators

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN A RARE MOVE, SENATE PRESIDENT Manuel Villar yesterday asked the Supreme Court to clarify "misimpressions" that it had imposed a gag rule on the Senate in its investigation of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

At the same time, Villar and other senators said the SC's order temporarily suspending the Senate inquiry into the alleged dissipation of assets of PCGG-sequestered corporations did not mean the chamber would stop all its other investigations.

"It's not fair to say we were given a gag order. They have to correct this," Villar said in a phone interview a day after the high court heard arguments on the legality of the warrants of arrest issued by the Senate against PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and other commissioners.

Villar said he had asked Senate lawyer David Yap to request SC spokesperson Ismael Khan to correct the impression that the Senate had been gagged.

Yap declined to elaborate on the con-

SC GAG/ A8

FREE AT LAST. Commissioners of the PCGG, led by its chair Camilo Sabio (right), share a solemn moment during yesterday's thanksgiving Mass after they reported for work for the first time since last week. RAFFY LERMA

PCGG commissioners back at work

By Alcuin Papa

THE ONLY THING LACKING WAS A brass band.

After 10 days of dodging a Senate "posse," five senior officials of the embattled Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) were reunited and returned to work yesterday, thanks to a Supreme Court order suspending the arrest warrants issued against them by an angry Senate.

The welcome they received when they arrived at the PCGG offices in Mandaluyong was a blend of revelry and solemnity.

For PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio, who spent 10 days in Senate detention, and for Commissioners Nicasio Conti, Narciso Nario, Ricardo Abcede and Tereso Javier, who were in hiding all that time, their defiance of a powerful institution seemed worth it.

They all appeared raring to go back to work.

Cheering employees and welcome banners told them they were finally back in their own turf. The rousing welcome was topped by a solemn Mass.

PCGG/ A8

Most drunken of 4 GIs says he heard only kissing, moaning

By Volt Contreras

THE "MOST DRUNK" AMONG THE FOUR accused US Marines in the Subic rape case claimed under oath yesterday that he only heard "kissing, moaning and laughter" in the van that he shared with the Filipino complainant and her purported abuser on the night of Nov. 1, 2005.

"Thank you for telling your story to the Marines," Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos said before letting go of Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis, 21.

Stung by the remark, defense lawyers quickly demanded that it be stricken off the record.

Duplantis was the last of the four American defendants to testify in the landmark trial that Judge Benjamin Pozon, in an unusual open-court disclosure, said he wanted resolved before the first anniversary of the purported crime.

Compared to the three other accused, Duplantis gave the shortest testimony but followed the same line of defense: That the complainant, "Nicole," had consensual sex with Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith.

In his testimony on Monday, Smith said Nicole was a willing partner who even helped him put on a condom. The next day, Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier, who at one point described Nicole as "a professional preying on" Smith, said he regarded her and Smith as "lovers."

On Thursday, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood mainly cited the purported lack of struggle on Nicole's part during the ride in the rented van.

During direct examination, Duplantis said he "couldn't tell for sure, but Smith and the girl were actively involved with each other."

MOST/ A11

Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Western Visayas. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/22/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

Gov't tracking foreign sources of CPP funding, says Gonzales

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER CLAMPING DOWN ON their local sources of funding, Malacañang is now going after the financiers of communist rebels abroad.

The Palace has tapped the Anti-Money-Laundering Council to track down Philippine companies paying revolutionary taxes to exiled Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria Sison on foreign shores.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said he believed these companies with operations overseas were the final source of the dwindling income of Sison who has been in self-exile in the Netherlands for more than two decades.

Gonzales said that with the military's clampdown on the extortion activities of New People's Army rebels, Sison has been demanding payment of revolutionary taxes from big companies abroad.

One of the objectives of the Philippine Anti-Money-Laundering Council is to trace the financial backbone of terrorist organizations, particularly in Southeast Asia.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced last July that the country has made its mark in its anti-money laundering campaign by freezing over P1 billion pesos and filing roughly about a hundred cases since the Anti-Money Laundering Act was enacted five years ago.

Since the inclusion of the CPP-NPA in the list of terror organization of the US and Europe, Gonzales said leftist groups have seen the taps on their foreign funding sources close down and this has forced them to make do with revolutionary taxes as their primary source of income.

NPA rebels demand payment of revolutionary taxes from politicians who want to campaign inside territories they control or from big companies such as those engaged in telecommunication, transportation, mining and logging firms operating in their areas. The rebels routinely torch the business assets of corporations that do not pay.

READY FOR RAMADAN
A young Muslim girl carrying a prayer rug on her head passes by a "halal" food restaurant in Quiapo, Manila, two days before the start of the Ramadan celebration. Muslims all over the world will fast for 30 days starting tomorrow, Sunday. EKA NICKMATULHUDA/CONTRIBUTOR

Bomb chemical popular fertilizer for Zambo fruit growers

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AMMONium nitrate, the chemical used for making bombs, is also popular as a fertilizer with fruit growers, particularly in this mango-producing center with some 2,000 hectares of land planted to the fruit.

According to city agriculturist Diosdado Palacat, mango growers prefer to use the chemical because of its high nitrogen content, compared to other fertilizers like ammonium phosphate, ammonium chloride and urea.

"It's basically a flower inducer not just for mango trees but for other fruit-bearing trees," Palacat said.

But ammonium nitrate is very potent and highly volatile if stored under uncontrolled conditions, he said.

"If mixed with sulfur, it will definitely explode. But if left in the open, it turns into hard stone," Palacat said.

He said the use of the chemical is regulated, requiring a permit from the Fertilizers and Pesticide Authority.

Supt. Jose Bayani Gucela, chief of the explosives and ordnance detection (EOD) unit of the Zamboanga City Police Office, said the owner of the 24 bags of ammonium nitrate recently intercepted onboard a cargo vessel from Sulu "could be a mango grower, distributor of fertilizers or pyrotechnic manufacturer."

The potency of a teaspoon of ammonium nitrate would be equivalent to that of an exploding "super lolo" pyrotechnic product.

Lawyer Luis Climaco, a city councilor who has ventured into mango-growing, said some mango growers did use ammonium nitrate, though he himself didn't.

"My trees are still small, they're not yet fruit-bearing so I use the complete type of fertilizer to make the trees grow," Climaco said. *Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Abus now have hi-tech bomb-making capacity

By Dona Pazzibugan

LOCAL TERRORISTS ARE NOW capable of making sophisticated bombs similar to those used by the al-Qaida international terror group, according to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr.

He said security forces had thwarted a "potentially lethal" terror campaign when they captured this week a bomb-making factory in a camp run by the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah in the jungles of Sulu.

The troops seized several sophisticated homemade explosives with "close similarities" to those used in the Middle East and Afghanistan, said Cruz who spoke before the the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday night.

One bomb, already armed, had electronic anti-tamper sensors and was loaded with hundreds of eight-millimeter ball bearings "designed to kill anyone within a 150-meter kill zone," he said.

Another device in a plastic bottle showed the rebels' capability to produce liquid bombs, he said.

Cruz said the improvised bombs "show a capability heretofore unseen among local terrorist groups."

On Monday, police in Zamboanga City seized a 600-kg shipment of ammonium nitrate on the ferry from Jolo. The ammonium nitrate, normally used as fertilizer but is also an explosive material, was found in two dozen sacks falsely declared as dried fish.

"With the discovery of this bomb-making facility and the interdiction of this shipment, there are reasons to believe that a potentially lethal terrorist bombing campaign has been disrupted," Cruz said.

But he warned that though their leaders are on the run in Sulu, the Abu Sayyaf and their JI counterparts are still capable of staging bomb attacks in metropolitan areas.

"They have yet to be defeated and their potential to launch terrorist attacks remains a serious concern," he said.

Last month, the military launched a United States-backed offensive targeting top Abu Sayyaf leaders, including chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and two alleged members of the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiyah—Umar Patek and Dulmatin—who are believed to be hiding out with Moro rebels and are both wanted in the 2002 Bali bombings.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said earlier this week that extremist leaders and their cohorts were "falling one by one, and we are on the verge of wiping out the notorious Abu Sayyaf group permanently."

Cruz urged the passage of the antiterrorism bill, saying current laws are "clearly inadequate" in the face of an enemy that has become more sophisticated.

"We must continue to redouble our efforts knowing that the enemy is developing new capabilities. [Soldiers] cannot continue the fight with one hand tied behind their backs," he said.

"Terrorism is a scourge being spread by an unseen enemy, who has the ability to melt into our communities and hide among law-abiding citizens," Cruz said.

He brushed aside fears that giving police and military more leeway in arresting and detaining suspected terrorists would give rise to human rights abuses.

"The leadership of our defense and military establishment is committed to enforce the law against all its personnel who violate our laws and military norms," he said.

Erap to fight Cha-cha

FORMER PRESIdent Joseph Estrada wants to personally appear before the Supreme Court to oppose the bid of Sigaw ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines to have the 1987 Constitution amended through a people's initiative.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, Estrada's legal counsel, yesterday said his client planned to ask the Sandiganbayan that he be allowed liberty from his detention in Tanay, Rizal to attend the oral arguments on people's initiative as a means to change the Charter to be presented before the high court.

"We are hopeful that the antigraft court will consider our motion favorably as President Estrada wishes to personally witness the proceedings and have an opportunity to air his side on why he is vehemently opposed to people's initiative as a mode of changing the Charter," Rodriguez said. *Norman Bordadora*

UP students pelt 'fascist' Esperon with eggs and mud

STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines pelted Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. with eggs and mud on Friday inside the UP campus in Quezon City, the military said.

Esperon was leaving a conference hall at the UP where he had been addressing a forum, when at least 10 students began chanting "fascist military" and throwing eggs and mud, hitting the general on his back and pants, AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said.

Bacarro said Esperon later joked about the incident and said that he did not plan to press charges.

The students did not explain their attack, but earlier such demonstrations have taken place to protest the increasing tide of murders of left-wing activists, widely blamed on the military.

In the first six months of this year, Amnesty International recorded 51 political killings in the Philippines.

Karapatan, a prominent local human rights group, has reported that at least 319 political activists were among 752 people killed since 2001, when President Macapagal-Arroyo took power.

Local activists have pointed a finger at security forces, but military officials, who refer to the activists as communist fronts, have denied any military involvement.

ESPERON

Opposition groups, human rights watchdogs and, increasingly, foreign governments have expressed alarm over the deaths. Ms Arroyo last month created a commission to investigate the slayings.

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said the Arroyo government was confident the military would not rise up to grab power so long as its 'poster boy' was in command, referring to Esperon.

"My prediction is that General (Hermogenes) Esperon will be the poster boy for no coups in the Philippines," Cruz declared at a Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati City Thursday night.

He said Esperon's "sharp mind" and "passion for reforms" would stamp out further restiveness within the military. *AP with a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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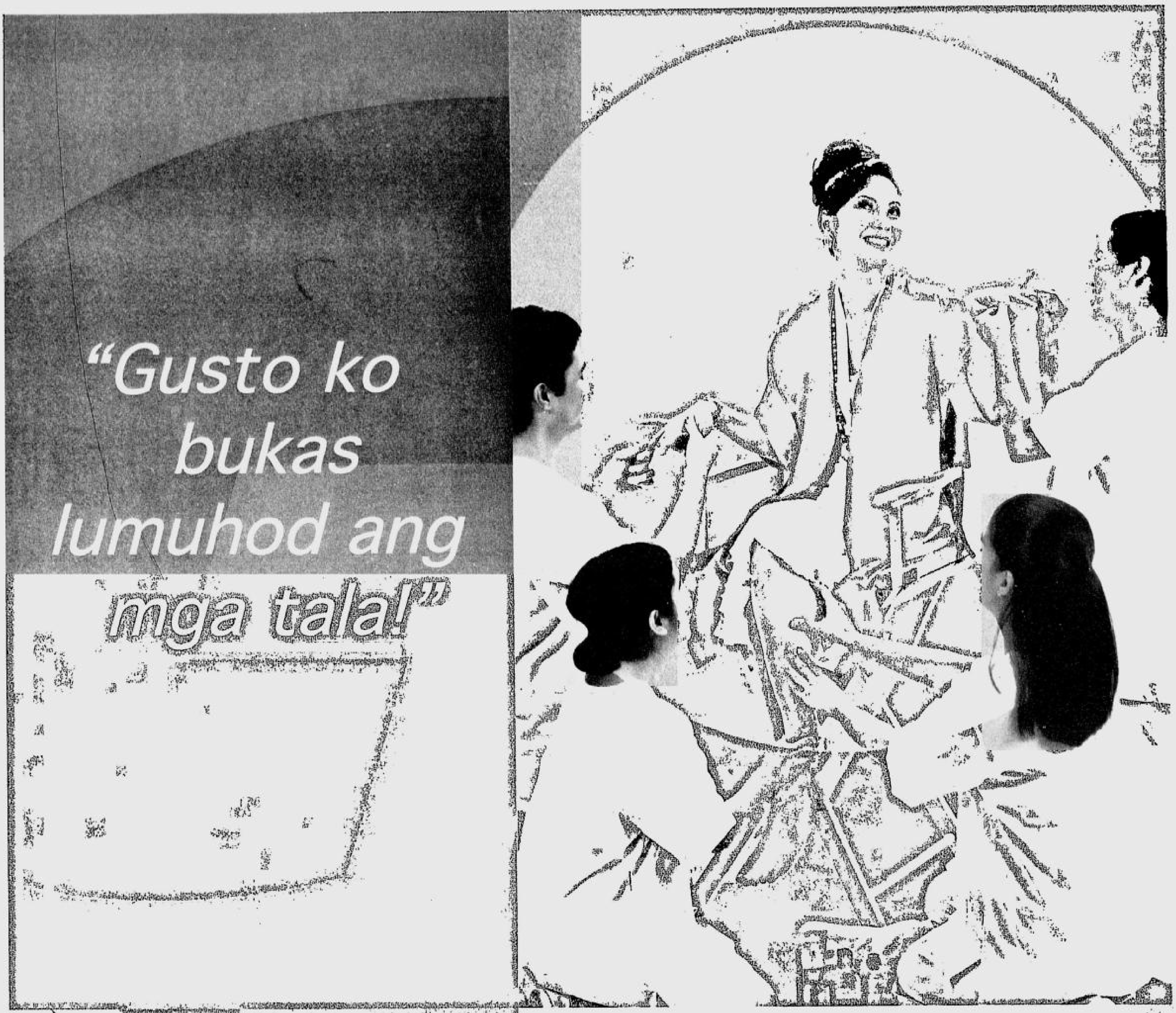
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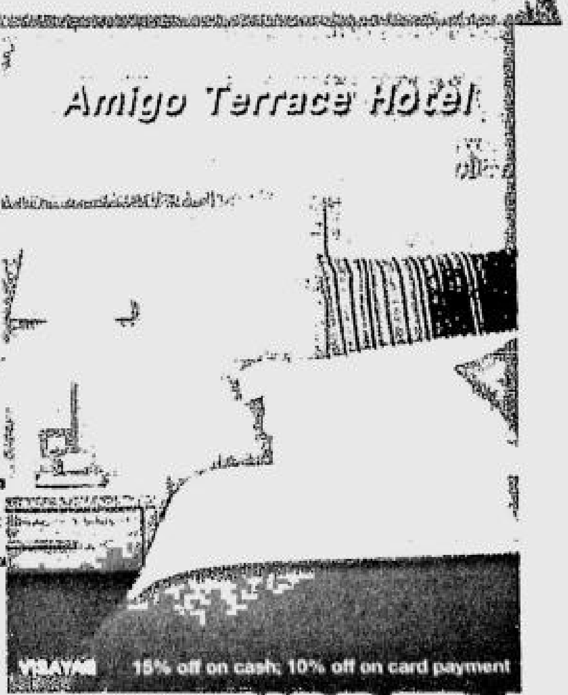
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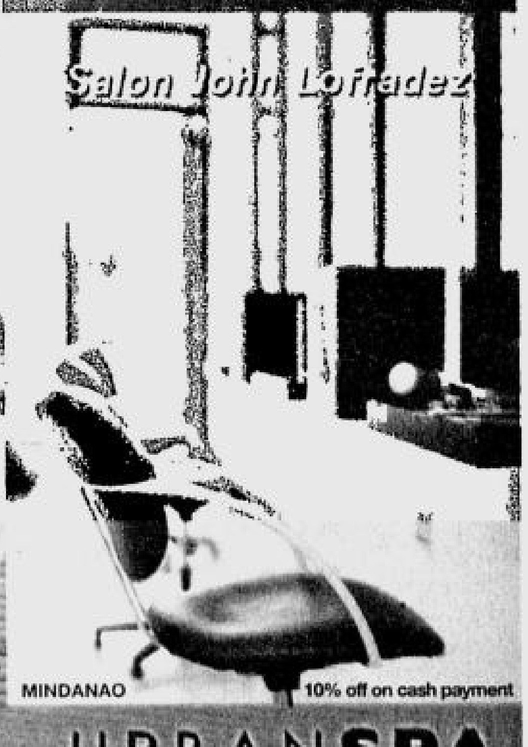
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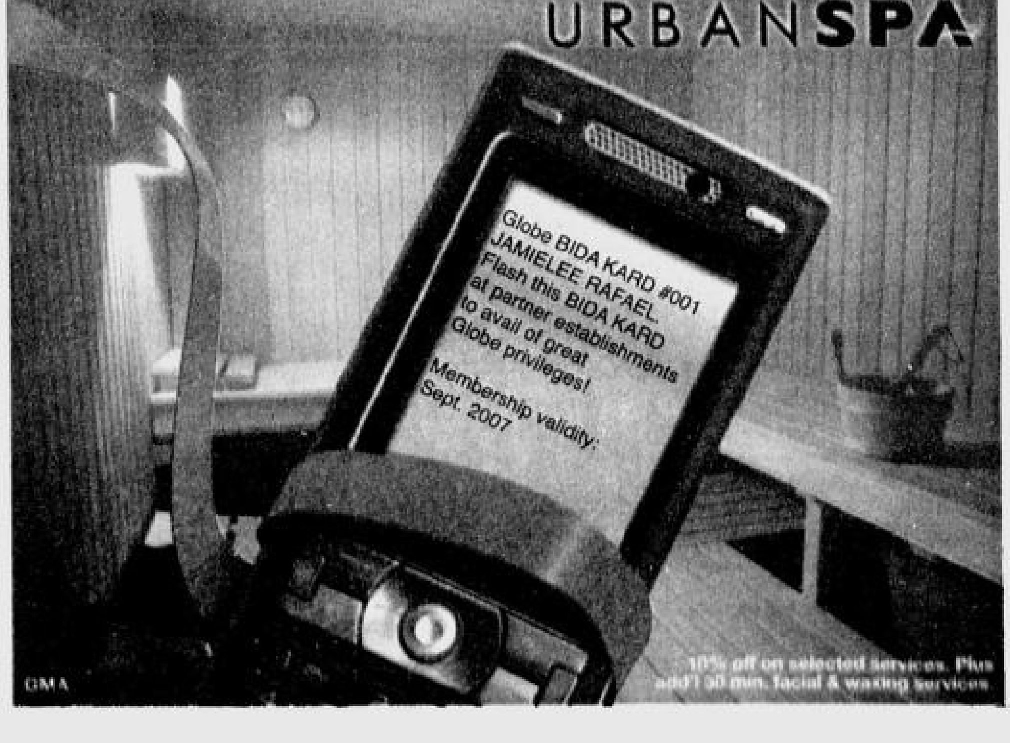
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UN official seeks swift okay of antiterror bill

By Fe Zamora

A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE UNITed Nations on Thursday urged senators to "go beyond political differences" and pass the antiterrorism bill that the country needs to ensure that the "scourge of terrorism disappears from the daily lives of Filipino people."

UN Assistant Secretary General Javier Ruperez, also concurrent executive director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) of the UN Security Council, made the appeal to senators after a week-long monitoring and evaluation of counterterrorism efforts by various government agencies.

"I would like to urge the legislators to try and go beyond their political differences and try to get that legislation passed as soon as possible because it is very important that there is a law that describes clearly the crime of terrorism," Ruperez told a press conference late Thursday at the Rennaisance Hotel in Makati City. Ruperez left the country Friday.

According to Ruperez, an antiterrorism law would facilitate the work of the police, the prosecutor and even in the observance of human rights. "Terrorism is not a common crime, there is something more than that," Ruperez said.

Principally authored by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, the proposed measured has faced strong opposition from Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. (PDP-Laban) who noted that many of the criminal offenses were already punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

Pimentel has also expressed apprehension that the new law would lead to violation of human rights. "If we pass the Anti-Terrorism Bill now without adequate safeguards against possible abuses, we are bound to regret it later," he said.

So far, Enrile has agreed to scrap a provision that would justify the arrest of a person and his detention for at least 15 days even without formal charges on the basis of mere information or complaint that the suspect is engaged in terrorist activities.

Under the proposed bill, the 15-day detention of a suspect may be extended.

Since his arrival on Sept. 18, Ruperez said he had held meetings with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and top security officials involved in counterterrorism.

Ruperez said the government had a "proper grasp" of operational matters in counterterrorism, but was hobbled in legal aspects. He said the lack of a law against terrorism was also affecting efforts to plug the financing activities of terrorists.

"We do hope that in the next weeks, months at the latest, this will be effectively enacted," Ruperez said.

Ruperez said his group also visited seaports and airports in Metro Manila and discussed the country's needs for technical assistance in counterterrorism.

He made it clear, however, that the UN was not involved in giving technical assistance, but in identifying the specific needs and potential sources or donors.

He said his team included experts from the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) and experts on the Taliban and the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Veep raps BI over Lebanon travel ban snafu

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERday asked the Bureau of Immigration to allow Filipino women married to Lebanese nationals to leave the country as they are not covered by the ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to that Arab country.

De Castro, presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and head of Task Force Lebanon, made the statement after several Filipino women married to Lebanese came to his office and complained that they were being prevented by the bureau from leaving the country.

De Castro said he was surprised by the bureau's decision since the ban was not meant to curtail the rights of Filipinos who have families in Lebanon.

"The bureau is simply overreacting. It was not the intention of the ban to prevent these women who are married to Lebanese nationals and who have families there from leaving the country. In the first place, these women are not workers," he told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Those who came to his office were actually holders of Lebanese passports, he said.

The Lebanese consul in the Philippines also certified that these women are married to Lebanese nationals.

De Castro called up Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis to discuss this matter. Seguis promised to immediately address this concern.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, Victor Agustin's column—"Merry Christmas, Zobels"—on Page B2 of the Business section misstated the relationship between Jaime Zobel de Ayala and the late Enrique Zobel. The two were cousins—not brothers.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers as you celebrate your 42nd Anniversary.

This milestone is worth celebrating as it proves your successes over the past 42 years. Your theme, "Onward to Design Excellence," speaks well of your continuing pursuit of excellence. I laud you for your hard work and for transforming this version into action.

Many Filipinos have made their mark – locally and internationally – in their chosen careers. I am glad that the PIID is doing its best to produce and develop local interiors designers to be at par with the best in the world. By providing your members with the latest trends and techniques in interior designing, you are giving them the cutting edge advantages in their striving for excellence, professionalism and competitiveness.

I enjoin you to help me realize our 10-point legacy agenda on socio-economic and political reforms. I need your help to achieve our national aspirations. Together, we can beat the odds.

Happy anniversary and Mabuhay!

Gloria Arroyo
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President

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Happy Anniversary!

Celebrating Anniversaries are always an event to look forward to, and the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers for its 42nd year had a crowning milestone and a niche to offer in the Design Industry and its membership; an established professional practice with a Law to protect both its members and clientele from the proliferation of illegitimate services. For these, we have all the reasons to celebrate and be grateful for the support of our partners in the industry and patronage of our client and friends.

Thank you.

Gerry L. Contreras
Gerry L. Contreras, Ipiid
President.

Design Concepts need good materials and impeccable services to become the reality that they are envisioned to be. The PIID has created the PIID Sourcebook to address this need with its comprehensive list of suppliers of design materials and professional design tips. It will have its soft launching on PIID's Anniversary on Sept. 23, 2006.

PROGRAM

Registration	5:00 PM
Cocktails and Viewing of Exhibit	6:00 PM
Thanksgiving Mass	6:30 PM
Welcome Remarks by Gerry Contreras	7:00 PM
Guest Speaker Madame Imelda Romualdes Marcos	7:10 PM
Dinner with Product Presentation By Pacific Paint (Boysen Phils., Inc.)	7:40 PM
Awarding Rites Hall of Fame Awardees 2006 Conferment to College of Fellows	8:40 PM
Soft Launching of the PIID Sourcebook	9:15 PM
Special Announcement By Exec. Director for Finance	9:30 PM
Entertainment and Raffle	10:00 PM
Closing Remarks Opening of Fellowship	10:30 PM

HALL OF FAME AWARDEES 2006
BERENGUER-TOPACIO, CHED
CALMA, LOR L.
CONTRERAS, GERRY L.
OCAMPO, "PANDOT" FERNANDO
OLIVEROS, EDITH L.
RAMIREZ, EDGAR P.
SANTIAGO-OLIVARES, SONIA

NOMINEES FOR THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS
ALMERIA, LEO M.
DE GUZMAN, ARLEN P.
MAGCASE, WILFRID NICHOLO
ONGKIKO, SONIA P.G.
VEGA, JACQUELINE C.

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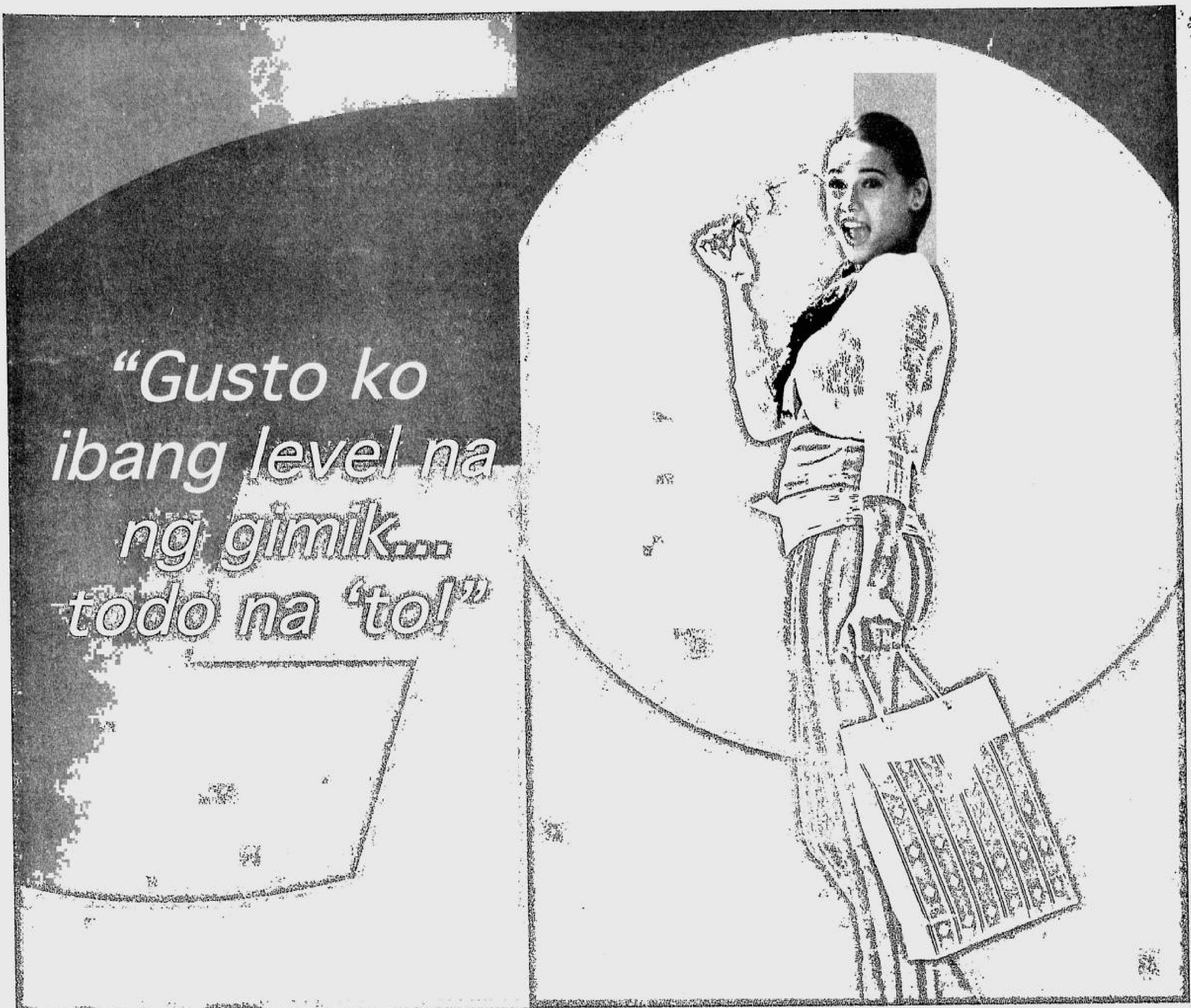
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GMA announces freeze in fares, cut in NLEx toll

By Christine O. Avendano

TOLL FEES AT THE NORTH LUZON EXPRESSway (NLEx) will be reduced by more than 10 percent effective Jan. 1 next year and there will be no hike in transport fares, at least for the remainder of this year, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday.

In a news conference in Malacañang, the President said the toll cut and fare freeze were made possible by the strong performance of the economy, particularly the good showing of the peso against the dollar, and the continuing slump in global oil prices."

The good news about the first ever reduction in toll fees at NLEx, she said, was "fresh off the oven," coming after her meeting yesterday with transportation secretary Leandro Mendoza and officials of the Asian Development Bank, one of the corporations that financed the NLEx project of the Manila North Toll Corporation (MNTC).

"Because of the good exchange rate we can afford this," the President said. The loans of the corporation are dollar-based, and the peso's strong performance in recent weeks eases their payment pressures.

The Jan. 1 schedule for the toll cut is in keeping with the Supplemental Toll Operating Agreement that says any adjustment in toll fees should be done every two years starting Jan.1.

"The financing (of NLEx) is dollar-based so every time there is a drop in the dollar, then it's automatic they should reduce their toll rate," Mendoza said.

The new NLEx toll fees will see vehicles paying upon entry the following: for Class I vehicles, P37.50 (down from P42.40); For Class II vehicles, P93.76 (down from P106); and Class III vehicles P112.51 (down from P127.22).

Vehicles will be charged per kilometer the following: for Class I vehicles, P2.19 (down from P2.48); Class II vehicles, P5.49 (down from P6.20); and Class III vehicles P6.59 (down from P7.45).

The toll fee adjustments were mentioned by MNTC president Jose de Jesus in a Sept. 22 letter to Mendoza.

Mendoza said the Toll Regulatory Commission (TRC), which he chairs, has yet to deliberate on the formula adjustment proposed by the MNTC but stressed that these rates were "more or less final."

"Because we follow the same computation, it's just a matter of approving or disapproving it, and TRB is going to approve this," he told reporters.

He said the toll fees at NLEx would be in effect for the next two years but the MNTC could file a petition for adjustment in case the peso-dollar exchange rate deteriorates.

At the same time, the transportation secretary said the government would defer taking action on pending petitions for transport fare increases by jeepneys, buses and taxis.

"We are not going to act on any petition for fare increases," Mendoza said, adding that this would be the government position for the rest of the year.

He noted that oil prices abroad continue to go down and that this could be the trend until the end of the year.

Asked about calls for a rollback in transport fares, he said there were no such petitions yet but if someone files a petition, this would be subjected to a hearing.

Palace warned of peasants' wrath over DA's paltry share in budget

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PARTY-LIST LAWMAKER HAS warned President Macapagal-Arroyo of "massive peasant protests" and the "wrath of the peasantry" for the miserly sums she has provided for agriculture in the proposed P1.1 trillion 2007 budget.

Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano said that despite the agricultural sector's more than 20 percent contribution to the gross domestic product, it would only get a measly two percent, or P23.6 billion, in the 2007 budget.

Mariano said this was reflective of the Arroyo government's "complete neglect of farmers, fisherfolk and others involved in the agricultural sector."

"A roughly two-percent allocation for the agriculture sector is highly deplorable compared with the sector's more than 20 percent contribution to the GDP," he said.

Out of the agriculture department's P23.6 billion allocation, P3.2 billion will go to the bureaus for salaries and such, and P20.4 billion for the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Program.

The DA's attached corporations, which include the National Food Authority, will receive a separate allocation of P1.62 billion.

"The NFA only has an allocation of P1.1 billion despite rice farmers' clamor to increase *palay* [buying] prices to P12 to P15 per kilogram, and for the grains agency to procure at least 25 percent of locally produced *palay* in order to influence prices at the farmgate," Mariano said.

He said the farmgate price of *palay* has only been pegged at P7 per kilo. During harvest time, it drops to as low as P5 to P6 a kilo.

The NFA only buys less than two percent of domestically produced *palay* at less than P10 a kilo, he said.

Mariano said the DA plans to import 1.6 million metric tons of rice next year with an estimated budgetary requirement of P28 billion.

"If the DA through the NFA will only utilize at least half of the above-mentioned amount to procure locally produced *palay*, it can acquire at least 10 percent of our local *palay* production," he said.

Mariano warned of "massive peasant protests" during the harvest season next month.

"Ms Arroyo will surely face the Filipino peasantry's wrath. They already do not get government support and now their product is not going to be bought," he said.

House OKs bill seeking to create regional payroll units for teachers

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has passed on third and final reading a bill that sought to create regional payroll units for half a million teachers in the country, decentralizing the massive payroll services of the Department of Education (DepEd).

"This bill was passed this week with the end in view of quickening the processing and releasing of the paychecks of the country's 505,150 public school teachers," said House Deputy Majority Leader Eduardo Gullas.

Gullas, a former educator who represents Cebu's first district, led a multipartisan group of 85 members of the House who authored the bill.

Gullas said DepEd's highly-centralized and largely Manila-based payroll services division was being "overwhelmed" by the sheer number of paychecks it had to process.

The payroll division handles almost P100 billion worth of paychecks yearly. The amount is expected to grow bigger in the years ahead as government creates more teaching posts by the thousands to address the public school system's severe shortage of teachers.

Next year alone, Gullas said, the DepEd would spend P1.2 billion to engage 10,882 new teachers and nonteaching personnel. This is on top of the 5,000 hired this year and the 5,000 recruited in 2005.

DepEd personnel now comprise almost half of the national government's 1,175,000 employees.

"The centralized payroll system has led to recurring delays in releasing of the salaries and allowances of teachers, particularly those from the provinces," Gullas said.

He said teachers, mostly from the Visayas and Mindanao, also found it "extremely tedious" to have paycheck discrepancies corrected, such as those due to excessive withholding taxes and unauthorized deductions.

Mike A public stature journalist's best defense vs libel, says lawyer

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE Miguel Arroyo could be considered a public figure, and that is a journalist's best defense against libel.

Public figures should not be onion skinned with regard to media criticism on matters of public concern. The First Gentleman, however, has sued at least 42 journalists for libel, including Philippine Daily Inquirer columnist Ramon Tulfo, editor in chief Leticia Magsanoc, publisher Isagani Yambot and several editors. Among the publications also sued by the First Gentleman are Newsbreak Magazine, Malaya, Tribune and Bandera.

During a roundtable discussion on libel organized by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP), lawyer Theodore Te of the University of the Philippines College of Law opined that since Mr. Arroyo has an office called the "Office of the First Gentleman," he is not only a public figure but a public officer as well.

He cited the 1996 landmark case of Borjal vs Court of Appeals where the complainant, claiming to be a private person, was deemed a public figure because the issue concerning the case was a public matter.

In the Borjal case, the Supreme Court said a "public figure is a person who, by his accomplishments, fame, mode of living, or by adopting a profession or calling which gives the public a legitimate interest in his doings, his affairs and his character, has become a public personage. He is, in other words, a celebrity. Obviously, to be included in his category are those who have achieved some degree of reputation by appearing before the public, as in the case of an actor, a professional baseball player, a pugilist, or any other entertainer."

The ruling also stated that public officers, famous inventors and explorers, war heroes and even ordinary soldiers, and infant prodigies are no less personages than the Great Exalted Ruler of the lodge. It includes, in short, anyone who has arrived at a position where the public attention is focused upon him as a person.

In the expanded definition of public figure, Mr. Arroyo could be considered one because "he is well known, prominent and some of the matters discussed about him are matters of public concern," Te said. Mr. Arroyo runs a foundation that raises money for his projects.

"Even a basketball player is a public figure," he added.

Jose Torres Jr., NUJP's chair, said libel, a criminal offense, is used as a weapon to harass journalists.

According to Te "libel is indirectly a restriction of free expression as it amounts to subsequent punishment. In some cases, it amounts to prior restraint."

NUJP is calling for the decriminalization of libel to stop harassment of journalists and defend press freedom.

ARROYO

Eastern Visayas HS students top achievement test anew

By Jhunnex Napallacan
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—EASTERN VISAYAS AGAIN BESTed 16 other regions in the country in the National Achievement Test (NAT) for fourth year high school students for the year 2005-2006.

Six schools divisions in Eastern Visayas also landed in the top 10, based on the results released by the Department of Education (DepEd) in Central Visayas.

DepEd Central Visayas ranked third among the regions, one slot higher compared to last year, according to DepEd 7 regional director Carolino Mordeno.

All three divisions in Eastern Visayas took the first three slots in the top 10, the NAT results showed.

The top 10 school divisions are the Southern Leyte School Division, with mean percentage scores (MPS) of 65.58; followed by Eastern Samar, with 64.57 MPS; Maasin City (Southern Leyte), with 63.78 MPS; Surigao del Norte, with 62.24 MPS; Western Samar, with 62.23 MPS; Toledo City (Cebu), with 62.05 MPS; Northern Samar, with 61.14 MPS; Siargao, with 60.80 MPS; Agusan del Norte, 60.62 MPS; and Calbayog City, with 60.43 MPS.

By regions, Eastern Visayas topped all the 17 regions nationwide with an average MPS of 60, followed by the Caraga region with 59 MPS and Central Visayas with 52 MPS.

At fourth, fifth and sixth places were Cagayan Valley, Zamboanga Peninsula and Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR) with 45 MPS; the MIMAROPA (Mindoro-Marinduque-Romblon-Palawan) region was in seventh place with 44 MPS; at 8th, 9th and 10th places were Ilocos Region, Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao with 43 MPS; 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th places went to Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Davao region and National Capital Region (NCR) with 42 MPS; 15th was the Bicol region with 41 MPS; 16th—Sorsogon, with 39; and 17th place—Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), with 34 MPS.

Mordeno said he was elated by the results because it showed that the ability of the students in Central Visayas as well as the teaching skills of the teachers have improved.

He said Central Visayas ranked number 4th last year.

"Aside from that, Central Visayas has the highest mean gains or increase of the MPS compared to other 16 regions nationwide," Mordeno said.

Mordeno also credited the parents who were very supportive of their students during the review of subjects in the different schools, especially in Toledo City, which ranked number one in Central Visayas.

Mordeno said his next task was to maintain or even improve the ranking in the next NAT in March.

Saudi firm to share profits with RP workers

A GIANT SAUDI Arabian construction firm has promised to share its profits with its Filipino employees.

"Everybody shall participate in the profit sharing regardless of position covering the least skilled to the highest. We will implement the scheme for this year 2006," Sheik Mohammad Al-Mojil told an executive of its local recruitment agency LWV Construction Corporation's in a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia recently.

The sheik owns Mohammad Al-Mojil Group (MMG), one of the largest construction companies in the Middle East.

The MMG group of companies is listed among the top 100 companies in Saudi Arabia.

This year, MMG has committed to employ about 8,000 Filipino skilled and administrative workers for its onshore and offshore operations.

LWV has opened branches in Mindanao and Visayas to be more accessible to Filipino job seekers.

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EXHIBIT HOURS
Sept. 23 - 10 am to 6 pm
Sept. 24 - 10 am to 6 pm

LAST 2 DAYS OF EXHIBIT!

FREE SEMINARS

Time	September 21, 2006	September 22, 2006	September 23, 2006	September 24, 2006
11:00 - 11:45		[illegible] Solution by Osram Phils Ltd. Corp.	Industrial Flooring Solutions by Jazmed Enterprises	[illegible] by Globe International Distributor Center
1:00 - 1:45	Advantage Using Rechargeable vs. Disposable Batteries by Carlson Trading Trend Setting a New Scheme in the Market by Racal Ceramics Bargain Center	Innovative and Effective on Water Proofing by Globe International Distributor Center Advantage Using Rechargeable vs Disposable Batteries by Carlson Trading	Right Product for the Right Job by Globe International Distributor Center Advantage Using Rechargeable vs. Disposable Batteries by Carlson Trading	Battle Field in the Tile Industry by Racal Ceramics Bargain Center
2:00 - 2:45	Latest Trend in Kitchen Innovation by Halele Phils., Inc. Cocopeat & Cocofiber as Materials for Landscaping and Erosion Control by Coco Technologies Corp.	Measure of Confidence To See is to Believe by Marshall Technologies Inc. Destiny Paints Product Presentation	Measure of Confidence To See is to Believe by Marshall Technologies Inc. New Innovation in Solar Wind Product by Hi-Tech Electrical Products Corp.	Innovative Aluminum Panels by Jea Steel Industries Inc. New Innovation in Solar Wind Product by Hi-Tech Electrical Products Corp.
3:00 - 3:45	Scotch Brite Redefining the Conventional in Paint Removal by 3M Phils., Inc. Chint & SPC Product Launching by KC Industrial Corporation	The Use of Cocopeat & Cocofiber Products for Gardening & Horticulture by Coco Technologies Corp Waterproofing by Republic Chemical Industries Inc.	Latest Trend in uPVC Windows by Cranmore uPVC Co., Inc Roof and Gap Sealant by Republic Chemical Industries Inc.	Tools for the Big Boys by Ginza Marketing Inc
4:00 - 4:45	Product Quality Guide Seminar - Wiring Device by Panasonic Philippines	Davies Brings Color to your Life and Life to Color Mastering Skim Coating & Sealants by Republic Chemical Industries Inc.	Davies Brings Color to your Life and Life to Color	Dutch Boy Paints and Latest Breakthrough

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 23, 2006
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

1st Reading: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49
Gospel: Luke 8:4-15

As a great crowd gathered and people came to him from every town, Jesus began teaching them through stories, or parables, "The sower went out to sow the seed. And as he sowed, some of the grain fell along the way, was trodden on and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and no sooner had it come up than it withered, because it had no water. Some fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with the seed and choked it. But some fell on good soil and grew, producing fruit—a hundred times as much." And Jesus cried out, "Listen then, if you have ears to hear!"

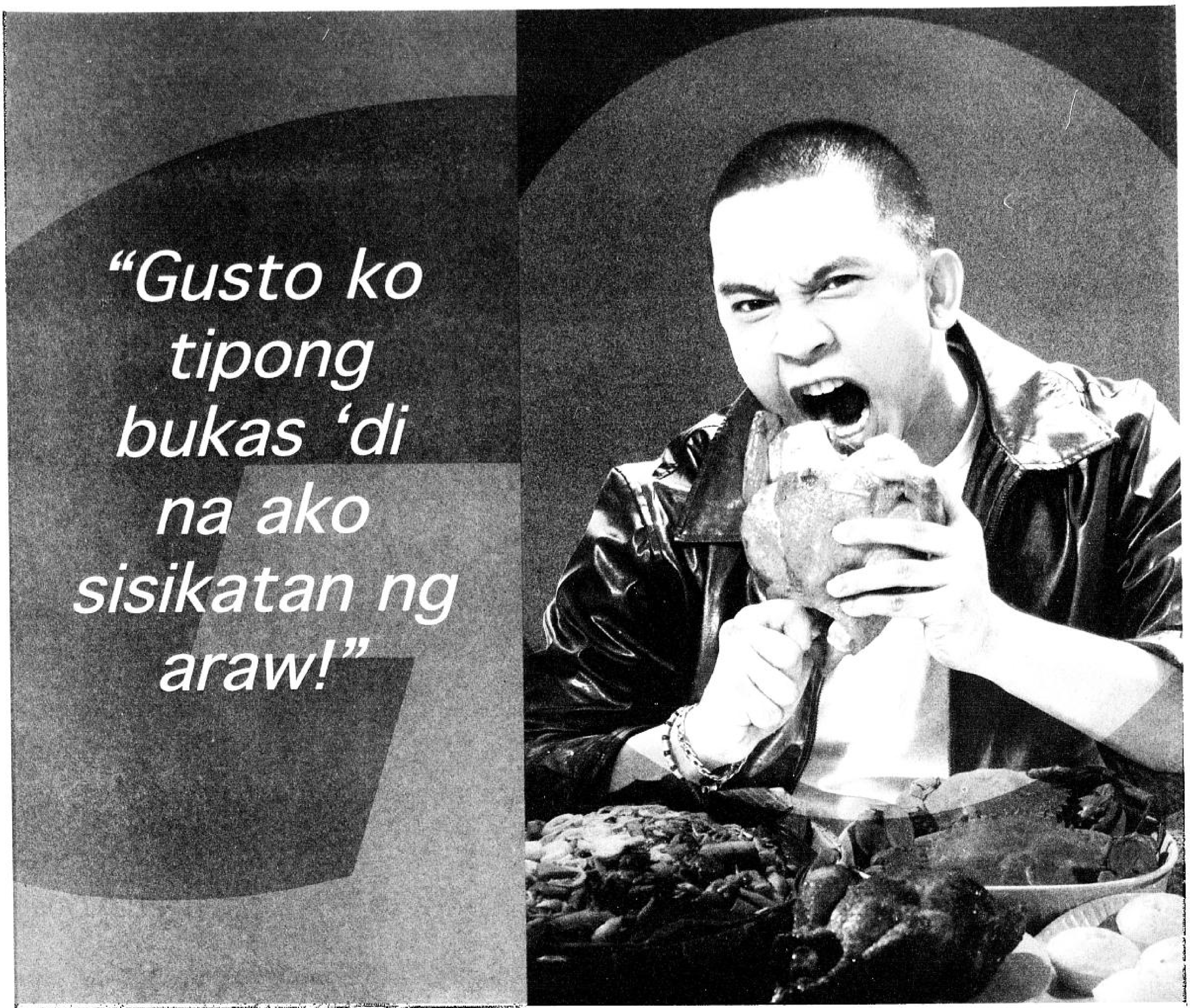
The disciples asked him, "What does this story mean?" And Jesus answered, "You have been granted to know the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to others it is given in the form of stories, or parables, so that seeing they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand."

Now, this is the point of the parable:

The seed is the word of God. Those along the wayside are people who hear it, but immediately the devil comes and takes the word from their minds, for he doesn't want them to believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are people who receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe for a while and give way in time of trial. Among the thorns are people who hear the word but as they go their way, are choked by worries, riches, and the pleasures of life; they bring no fruit to maturity. The good soil, instead, are people who receive the word and keep it in a gentle and generous mind, and persevering patiently, they bear fruit.

Commentary

Do we ask stupid questions too? Our bodies have been sown in the Body of Christ, buried with Christ in God and we already have been raised in glory with Christ. The rest of our life since baptism is the practice of resurrection that will come one day in fullness for all, and for the earth. Our lives and the ground we dwell in have been sown with the Word of God and that Word is powerful beyond imagining. But what is our ground like: our bodies, our lives and souls? We've heard the Word, but what has it done in us? And this is not just about our individual lives, but our communities that yield yearly harvests of justice and peace for others. What have our hearts reaped on behalf of other hungry hearts?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Senate threatens to form own security force

By TJ Burgonio

SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL Villar Jr. yesterday questioned an order of PNP Director General Oscar Calderon prohibiting policemen assigned to the Senate from helping serve arrest warrants, even as he threatened to form a separate Senate security force.

Villar warned the Philippine National Police leadership that its reservation about enforcing a lawful order of Congress would reflect badly on President Macapagal-Arroyo because this showed a low regard for democratic institutions, like the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"It's as if they're saying that they don't value our institutions," he told reporters.

Director Wilfredo Garcia, the PNP operations director, said Thursday that all security personnel assigned to the Senate and House "shall only take direct orders from the chain of command."

Calderon said the job of his men was only to guard the premises of both chambers, and that any other police functions required by either chamber had to be coursed through the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Calderon's statement followed reports that members of the Special Action Force stationed at the Senate had been suspended and investigated for aiding Senate policemen last week in serving the arrest warrant on Camilo Sabio, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Endangering security

Villar said he would raise the issue with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"This is not about the Senate," he said. "This is about the security of an institution, especially in the face of threats of coup d'etat. In those dangerous times, the Senate could be caught in the crossfire. That's the reason why they deployed SAF members here."

Villar also warned that the pullout of the combat-trained SAF contingent from the Senate and its replacement by agents of the Police Security and Protection Office, who were mostly detailed with diplomats, could endanger Senate security.

"If they pull them out, and something happens, they'll be held liable for it," he said.

Own security force

In view of this, Villar said he would revive an old proposal for the Senate to form its own security force, and suggest the same to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

"Maybe it's about time we form our own security force so we don't have to depend on the police for our security. Besides, we can get good people. That's normal in any parliament. In Washington, they have such a force," Villar said.

In the past, the Senate decided against beefing up the sergeant at arms, now headed by retired Maj. Gen. Jose Balajadia (ret.), due to budget constraints.

How democracy works

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. backed Villar.

"I am saying that Calderon does not seem to understand the workings of democracy," Pimentel said. "He is trying to place himself above the civilian government. He should probably study constitutional democracy because he is trying to project an image of superiority to civilian authorities."

Pimentel said that since democracy was restored after the 1986 People Power Revolution, the Marines or other security forces assigned to the Senate had been used in enforcing all Senate orders. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

SC gag order . . .

From page A1

tents of his letter to Khan.

"I am sending a letter to Attorney Khan asking the Supreme Court to clarify the reports regarding what happened yesterday, what really transpired, to be fair to everybody because we do not want to create misimpressions," Yap said in a phone interview.

Mutual agreement

Khan had told reporters after Wednesday's hearing that "none of the parties is allowed to talk" on the issues raised at the Supreme Court.

"There is a gag rule on the matter. You can't interview parties, which will be a violation of the ruling with contempt," Khan had said.

The Supreme Court ordered that the investigation being conducted by the Senate government corporations committee into the supposed dissipation of the assets of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. be suspended pending the court's ruling.

The high court also suspended the effectivity of the arrest warrants issued by the Senate and allowed Sabio to go home for the meantime.

Villar said the three parties—the Supreme Court, the Senate and the PCGG—had agreed that there should be a "ceasefire" on the PCGG issue to allow the court to rule on the matter. He said the senators were honoring the agreement by not commenting on the merits of the issue.

Arroyo's concern

Villar said the SC justices had consulted the Senate side before issuing its order.

One of those present said Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban had asked Sabio during the oral arguments if he would answer the questions of the Senate should the court rule against him. Sabio said yes and Panganiban suggested the Senate investigation be suspended and Sabio be allowed to go home.

But Sen. "Joker" Arroyo expressed reservations that "we have very talkative (PCGG) commissioners" who could spin off different interpretations of the SC order. That was when Panganiban suggested the gag rule.

Separation of powers

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he was worried about the gag order as it "may have crossed the line of the principle of separation of powers" between the legislature and the judiciary.

"I'm sure my opinion has valid constitutional basis, at least on the issue of separation of powers. Maybe the Senate should start looking at itself as well as its constitutional prerogatives," Lacson said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the suspension was a "good compromise decision" and that this did not at all mean the high court would rule against the Senate.

The Senate will pursue its other investigations, according to Villar, Pimentel and Lacson.

"This order is purely for the PCGG (probe). We are going to continue with other investigations," Villar said.

Collective relief

Different Senate committees are currently conducting investigations into the nursing examinations leakage, the funds of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Guimaras oil spill. These are apart from the suspended hearings on the "jueteng" scandal, the 2004 electoral fraud and the NorthRail project.

Other members of the Senate actually greeted with relief the court's suspension of the inquiry into PCGG.

Sen. Richard Gordon, who chairs the inquiry, the medical staff who watched over Sabio, and the legislative policemen who had been trying to track down defiant PCGG officials collectively heaved a sigh of relief now that they had been released, albeit temporarily, from their tough tasks.

"We're relieved from the daily hearings, which I wanted to do because there's somebody here under confinement," Gordon said, referring to Sabio.

Heart of the matter

"But we intend to call again these people to account [for their acts], and craft a law. And the evidence so far obtained by the committee showed that the PCGG has been remiss in its duties," he added.

At the crux of the dispute is Executive Order No. 1 issued by then President Corazon Aquino in 1986 granting PCGG officials immunity from testifying in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings.

Sabio and the other commissioners cited that order in refusing to testify at the Senate.

"I felt relieved after being informed that he was released. Now we can rest," said Dr. Mariano Blancia, chief of the Senate's medical and dental services who often worked the night shift and rotated with two doctors in looking after the 70-year-old Sabio.

Senate sergeant at arms Jose Baladia said: "We have ceased the manhunt."

For days, Senate policemen staked out the offices, residences, business addresses and haunts of the defiant officials.

The high court has ordered the contending parties to submit their memoranda in 15 days, after which it is expected to issue a ruling in a month's time. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

PCGG commissioners back at work

From page A1

"It feels really good to be back and we are going to buckle down to work," Javier told reporters.

Nario said he was glad he was finally able to sleep soundly in his home. Conti said they would now focus again on their jobs "because we have many things to do for the Filipino people and our country."

All five were careful not to violate a gag order from the Supreme Court on the issue of alleged irregularities in the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat).

Happy to be back

A smiling Sabio arrived at around 10 a.m., half an hour after Nario, Javier and Conti showed up.

"I am happy to be back," Sabio said, dressed in a white *barong* and dark blue slacks. The other commissioners wore coats and ties.

On his way to his office on the second floor, Sabio was greeted by staff.

"Welcome back, Sir!" women called out to him. Sabio smiled, waved his thanks and shook hands with the male staff.

All around the PCGG building, the air was festive as employees posted "Welcome back!" banners.

Freedom and Sabio's health

"We thank God for giving us our freedom," said Abcede. "We thank the Supreme Court for its wisdom in giving us back our liberty and freedom. It's now back to the back-breaking work at our offices."

He also waxed philosophical.

"Freedom is like your health. You will never know what you are losing until you start losing it. It's easy to take it for granted," Abcede said.

At one point, Sabio's eyes fogged over at the thought of an enlarged prostate, which his doctors had discovered during his recent medical checkup.

Better a whole man

"I would rather die a complete man than half a man," he said. He refused any suggestion for a biopsy to determine if his prostate was cancerous.

"I leave it to God," the soft-spoken PCGG chief said.

"In the meantime, I will devote my time to my work in the PCGG and my family. All of us want to live a little longer. I am happy with my life, my work and my family. We are all mortals and anytime we can face the ultimate bar of judgment. We will do what we can and we will work harder."

Nario said they would all get to work immediately on "big cases," like the disposition of the shares from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the coco levy cases and the Payanig sa Pasig property.

Marcos cases

"We will be busy with the termination of the pending cases. We will also focus on the settlement with the Marcoses and the cronies," Nario said, referring to the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Last week, the Senate issued warrants of arrests against the "PCGG 5" for refusing to attend its hearings on supposed irrgularities involving the assets of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp.

They invoked Executive Order No. 1, the law that created the PCGG, which says no official can be compelled to appear before any inquiry on matters related to their work.

On Tuesday last week, Sabio was arrested in his office by a Senate security team. The others went into hiding.

The other day, the Supreme Court suspended the arrest warrants and ordered a halt to the Philcomsat hearings at the Senate.

No to abolition

The PCGG, created in 1986, is in charge of going after the alleged ill-gotten wealth of the Marcos family and their alleged cronies.

Commenting on calls for the abolition of the PCGG because it had not accomplished what it was set to do, Javier said this was "only the perception of some people that we are not doing anything. On our part, we are just continuing our work."

"We firmly believe the PCGG should continue doing its work," Sabio said. "The abolition will require a law to be passed by Congress. That is the law."

Sabio said the public had yet to hear a "sufficient explanation of the good that we are doing here."

Final say

Abcede explained that if the PCGG was abolished, "this could lead to the return of the (sequestered) companies to the (Marcos) cronies."

Sabio said only the Supreme Court could compel him to return to the Senate to testify.

"It all depends on the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will set the limits to the powers of the PCGG and it has the final say. But if I will attend the hearings, we will continue to state the position that we have taken."

Referring to the PCGG's petition to the high court to stop the Philcomsat hearings, Sabio said he and the other commissioners "are confident the Supreme Court will do what is wise."

The usually flamboyant and outspoken Abcede looked relaxed and rested, while telling reporters that there was no need for him to "tone down" his media interviews after his brush with the Senate.

Day is complete

"I will never change my character for anything or anyone. What you see is what you get. Maybe I am just passionate in my views," he said.

Abcede, the PCGG commissioner for asset management, found himself in the middle of the Philcomsat storm when Sen. Richard Gordon alleged that he had received a luxury car from the company.

Abcede said the vehicle was under the name of the company.

Conti, also looking sprightly, said his wife, who is having a delicate pregnancy" was doing all right.

The Supreme Court is expected to come out with a final decision on their petition against the Senate in 45 days.

To make their day complete, the officials heard a thanksgiving Mass in their honor.

Then they went into a closed-door en banc session.

There's still hope for RP, 3 young leaders find

From page A1

DE UNGRIA

ECLARIN

HERNANDEZ

The results are then shared with the National Bureau of Investigation and the Philippine National Police, who are usually first on the crime scene.

The NBI and PNP have their own DNA labs but these agencies focus on criminal and civil cases. They collect the key biological samples needed in the investigation and prosecution of the case.

Paternity tests

The DNA Analysis Laboratory is also called on to do paternity tests in support of cases involving child support, thus protecting the rights of the child and the mother.

"Science must be at the service of society," De Ungria says.

It is this sense of service that convinced De Ungria to go back to the Philippines in 1999 after getting her Science degree from Macquarie University and a doctorate in Molecular Microbiology from the University of New South Wales.

This 38-year-old Young Scientist of the Philippines awardee of the National Academy of Science and Technology had numerous offers to work in Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom, but she decided to go back to the Philippines.

"At first, it was just to stay for four years to pay for my scholarship at the Philippine Science High School, but I'm still here," De Ungria says.

New battlefield

Eclarin, meanwhile, came back from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1993, so fired up and ready to serve his country, he even kissed the tarmac at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when he got off the plane.

The second lieutenant from Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, volunteered for the Scout Rangers and in 2000, led his men in battle during the all-out war in Mindanao.

He emerged from the war in Mindanao with six Gold Cross medals, but his soul had grown weary of the horror, the killing and the destruction.

"I got out of there convinced I had to fight a different war," says Eclarin, 36.

He found his new battlefield in microfinance when a neighbor borrowed money to pay for a daughter's trip.

When the grateful neighbor paid back the loan a few weeks later, Eclarin and his wife were elated that they were able to help and at the same time made a little interest on their money.

Time to build

They decided to put up Hometown Corp. in 1998, a microfinance company that started with the couple's last money of P250,000. Today, Hometown has more than 100 branches and a capitalization of P150 million. The branches are in the most remote of provinces to service those who have no other access to credit.

As Eclarin's business grew, he also got promoted in the military.

Eclarin is currently the operations officer of the 5th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army and branch chief, Force Integration Branch, which is responsible for integrating the late rebel priest Conrado Balweg's Cordillera People's Liberation Army rebels into the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

At the same time, he serves as director and chair of the Microfinance Council for Region II and is very much involved in Hometown Corp. and Hometown Foundation, which owns 40 percent of the shares of the microfinance company.

The foundation aims to build a culture of entrepreneurship in the remote areas of the Philippines.

"I used to just destroy things," Eclarin says. "It is time to start building."

The mission

Balay Mindanaw Foundation Inc. officers and staff conduct their most intense meetings in a place they call "the peace—not war—room."

They want to remind themselves that it is the culture of peace they are trying to nurture in war-torn Mindanao.

Balay Mindanaw, a Cagayan de Oro-based nongovernment organization, got involved in peace work just three years ago.

"That was when we found our true mission in life," says its executive director Ariel C. Hernandez, 35.

Since graduating from Xavier University with a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, Hernandez has always been involved in community development work. He was part of the group that set up Balay Mindanaw 10 years ago. Some seven years were devoted to the development of upland communities, as far as six hours away from Cagayan de Oro.

Peace work

They got involved in peace work when Balay Mindanaw was asked to be part of the peace negotiations between government and rebel groups.

Hernandez says peace cannot just be discussed on the theoretical level. It must be defined in terms of human faces and actual addresses. Having a culture of peace needs a mental transformation.

This is why Balay Mindanaw has been involved in bringing the peace process down to the community level, encouraging community members to settle disputes among themselves.

"We asked them to look at themselves, and look at their biases and prejudices," he says. "They may realize that they are actually part of the reason why there is conflict in their community."

Hope from the young

From there, community members discover ways to lessen the conflict and ultimately, get involved in resolving conflicts.

Hernandez says he went through his own transformation process, so he now looks at the military and the government as partners and not "enemies" as he used to.

Balay Mindanaw recently agreed to take on the challenge of training military officers and paramilitary groups on peace.

Hernandez said he hoped the training would eventually reach out to rebel groups and bring about lasting peace in Mindanao.

Aside from De Ungria, Eclarin and Hernandez, the other seven young leaders are: Marie Sol T. Delantar, Lea Perez Marasigan, Martin Emile Z. Lopez, Rep. Gilbert Cesar Remulla, David R. Bercasio, Theresa Anne Manalastas and Eugene Castillo.

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saan ka man naroroon,
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ikaw pa, ang lakas mo sa

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BLESSING. A Thai soldier puts his hands together in a traditional Thai greeting after giving alms to a Buddhist monk near Government House in Bangkok. REUTERS

Junta close to picking PM

From page A1

street campaigners determined to drive him out.

Hopes that the coup-makers were right prompted foreign investors to record their biggest net buying in the Thai stock market this year on Thursday.

A day later, however, the stock index was down nearly 2 percent on news the military council was setting up a body to probe allegations of corruption under Thaksin.

His relatives and political colleagues would be a particular focus, judges invited onto the panel said, and companies associated with Thaksin that led the stock market fall.

Tax-free deal

The auditor general has already speeded up existing probes, including one into whether Thaksin's family legitimately avoided paying tax on its $1.9-billion sale of the firm he founded.

Thaksin, whose Shin Corp. grew into Thailand's biggest telecommunications group, has denied charges of corruption since street campaigners began throwing them at him late last year.

However, his family's tax-free sale of its controlling stake in the company to Singapore state investment firm Temasek Holdings in January infuriated Bangkok's middle classes and breathed life into the anti-Thaksin movement.

Thaksin was in New York at the UN General Assembly at the time of the coup, Thailand's first in 15 years but its 18th since it became a constitutional monarchy in 1932.

Thai media splashed pictures of a smiling Thaksin, hand-in-hand with his daughter, going out for a stroll in London where aides say he is having a "deserved rest."

His colleagues back in Thailand were not so lucky.

Detained Cabinet men

Two more Cabinet ministers turned themselves in to the Army, joining two Thaksin aides in indefinite custody. The Nation newspaper said they were likely to be detained until a new civilian government was installed.

Human rights organizations and governments around the world have condemned the coup leaders' curbs on civil liberties.

The military has banned political gatherings of more than five people and the distribution of information critical of the coup on websites or on television, apparently to avoid the spread of rumors of a counter-coup.

Counter-coup

Information Ministry officials said the restrictions meant no broadcasting of SMS messages on television programs or calls to radio shows, even traffic stations.

Web masters were told to shut political Web boards for 12 days or risk permanent closure.

Rumors of a counter-coup by Thaksin supporters have been simmering quietly in the background since Tuesday and the Army warned the public against taking them seriously.

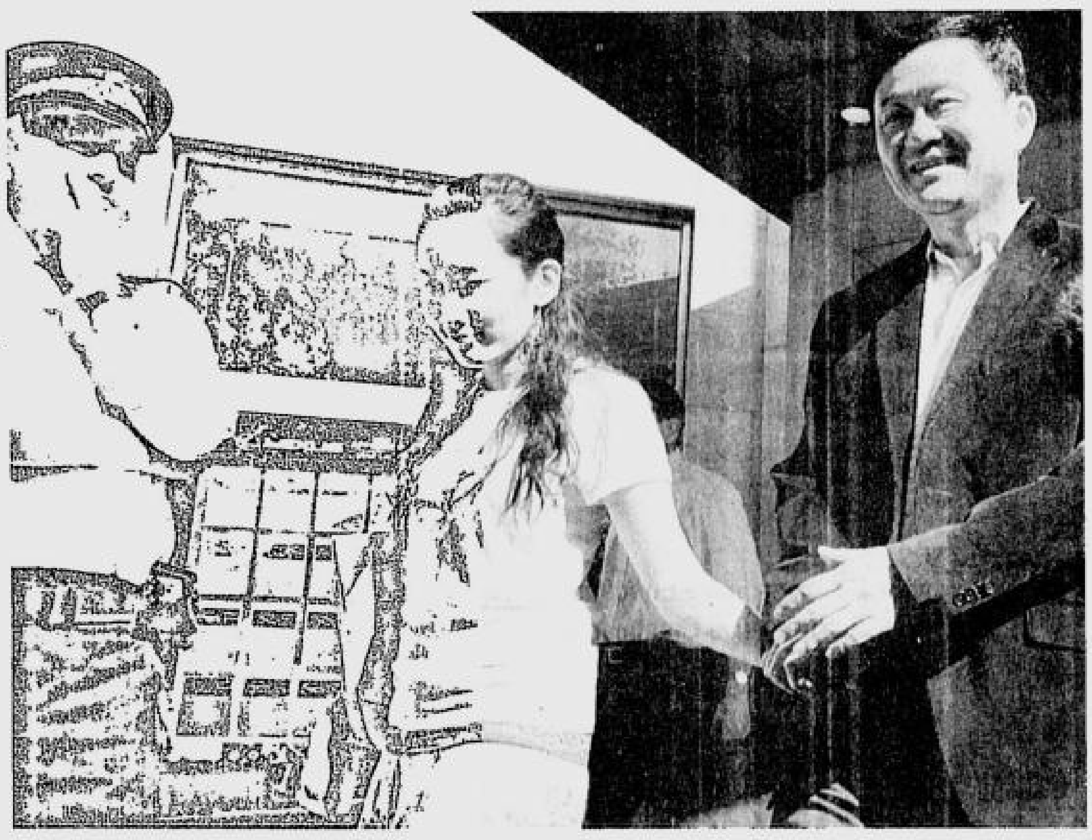
However, there was still a limited military presence in Bangkok, mostly around Government House and Army headquarters.

There were also signs of reinforcements on roads leading into the city, including a handful of tanks on the highway from the north and northeast where many army units are based.

The coup leaders have also banned "political activities."

The United States said it was dismayed by the ban and was reviewing its budgeted $14 million in aid to Thailand this year.

Reuters



OUSTED THAI Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his daughter Pinthongta pass a British police officer as they leave an apartment in central London where he had gone following the coup that kicked him out of power. REUTERS

Thaksin assets may be seized

BANGKOK—THAILAND MAY seize the assets of ousted billionaire Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the new military junta said yesterday.

"It's under consideration on how we will proceed" with Thaksin's vast assets, said Air Chief Marshall Chalit Pukbhasuk, the head of the Air Force and one of the military commanders who toppled Thaksin on Tuesday.

The junta earlier expanded the powers of the national police chief, which would make it easier to press ahead with prosecutions against Thaksin and other members of his government.

Thailand's auditor general told local media that she would be ready to complete at least one longstanding corruption investigation within days.

The junta has promised to appoint a new civilian government within two weeks, and promised to draft a new constitution to clear the way for elections in October 2007.

Chalit said the generals were considering at least five candidates to become the new prime minister, but he declined to reveal their names.

"The new prime minister is likely to be a legal expert because he has to implement constitutional reforms, while his deputies can oversee economic affairs," he said.

"There are more than five people under consideration, and I expect he will be named soon," Chalit said.

AFP

No makeup, no long nails for women cops

From page A1

According to a memorandum sent to all Philippine National Police district directors: "Earrings must be plain and even light makeup is not allowed..."

The directive, addressed to all Metro police directors, was a reiteration of an order issued earlier by Police Director General Oscar Calderon.

This time, the memorandum included guidelines "which must be strictly followed." A weekly report on violations must be submitted to higher headquarters through its human resources department.

"Any violation of the guidelines shall constitute an administrative offense punishable according to the existing policies," the directive said.

Guidelines include:

- Colored hair and colored nails are not allowed.
- Policewomen must wear conventional pumps. Shoes must not have laces which go around the legs.
- Policewomen with short hair must use gel.
- Policewomen with long hair must use a hairnet or they must tie their hair in a ponytail.
- Denim pants must not be worn at any time in the office.
- Except for officers assigned in crowd control during mass actions, all policewomen must wear skirts with the prescribed length.
- The length of all official skirts must be an inch below the knee with an overlap slit at the back.
- Athletic uniforms must be worn only during events scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

directive, however, did not explain why wearing makeup, colored hair or shoes with laces that go around the legs could stand in the way of police work.

A policewoman who requested anonymity said: "We respect restrictions but they must be applied to everyone, not just women in the force."

Makeup enhances a woman's appearance and her powers of persuasion, especially when working a case, said the policewoman with the rank of chief inspector.

"They must review these standards and be fair to all police officers," she added.

Ex-plotter sees no parallel coup in RP

From page A1

trigger a parallel action here in the immediate future.

Rex Robles, a retired Navy commodore and himself a former coup plotter, yesterday said the restiveness among certain members of the military was at such a high level that not even 15 more coups in a neighboring country would serve to stoke the discontent.

"If the fever is already very high, adding one more degree of heat will not matter," Robles told the INQUIRER. "But we'd be kidding ourselves if we think they've stopped plotting."

House Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman said the chance of a "sympathetic coup" happening in the Philippines was "remote."

He said a coup attempt would not succeed here because of "a popular aversion to extraconstitutional means of subverting the status quo."

Furthermore, he said, Philippine democratic institutions were "well-entrenched, so much so that there is abiding adherence to the rule of law."

"Coups d'état do not follow the pattern of a sympathetic [case] where an injured eye inflames the other," Lagman said.

"The coup in Thailand that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra does not portend a similar military takeover in the Philippines," he said.

'Viable option'

But for a group of disgruntled officers of the Armed Forces, the successful coup in Bangkok showed that military intervention remains a "viable option" to oust an unpopular leader.

One officer told the INQUIRER that the coup that ousted Thaksin was "an indirect validation [of efforts to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo] as a means of change in government leadership."

He echoed earlier observations that the critical factor in the Thai coup was the implicit backing of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the support of the Thai people themselves.

The officer, who requested anonymity for obvious reasons, attributed the failure of past attempts to oust Ms Arroyo to "political patronage" in the military brass.

"She has succeeded in dividing the military leadership. The generals are in power, and you can't expect them to rock the boat *habang nakikinabang sila* (while they are reaping the benefits)," the officer said.

He added that Ms Arroyo had "muzzled dissent through the use of the military and police."

But what he and his comrades fear the most, the officer said, was that "the Filipino people have grown apathetic."

"There is no evident and widespread outpouring of support for demonstrations against the Arroyo administration," he said, citing the Oakwood mutiny in 2003 and the purported coup attempt in February.

The officer pointed out that the Thai people's massive demonstrations against Thaksin became a "precondition" for the Thai Army to oust the billionaire prime minister.

"The opportunity will be provided by the people. It will never be the military first," he said. "Ultimately, sovereignty resides in the people."

Last Watering Hole

Robles observed that unlike in Thailand, Filipino military rebels had neither a king who would give tacit approval to their cause nor a corps of respected military elders who would tell loyalists to let the plotters be.

"In 1986, we had the Last Watering Hole who gave us support and guidance," Robles said, referring to a clique of influential, albeit politicized, retired generals in the Association of Generals and Flag Officers. It included officers who were generally against the dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his imposition of martial law.

"We were confident that the late Gen. Jesus Vargas would call on [Marcos military chief Fabian] Ver whenever he'd be on to us (members of the Reform the AFP Movement)," he said.

Vargas was a former AFP chief of staff who was known for his commanding presence even after retirement.

"We tore a page out of Thailand's history and its experience with coups when we cultivated the support of the senior officers [in the Last Watering Hole]," Robles said.

He said he and his comrades also had the "tacit approval" of the then Manila archbishop, Jaime Cardinal Sin.

"Cardinal Sin was quite influential at that time," Robles said.

Ideas, not muscles

Lagman noted that in the Philippines, no military coup attempt had ever succeeded in ousting a sitting President.

"The Philippines has not experienced a successful coup as a precedent, while Thailand has a historical anchorage for military takeovers," Lagman said.

"In the Philippines, we flex ideas rather than muscles. We mobilize opposition movements rather than armaments," he added.

Lagman said the presence of a strong media also tended to "accommodate differing views to clash in a democratic space rather than in violent confrontation."

He said the government's responsiveness to "the imperatives of socioeconomic reforms" had managed to "quell dissatisfaction and quash resistance to governance."

He dismissed suggestions that the Arroyo administration was planning to impose martial law, saying this would be difficult to do given "stringent constitutional restrictions."

Prayers, confidence

Malacañang is offering prayers for a swift resolution to the military takeover in Thailand and touting the Philippine military's loyalty and the economy's resiliency to counter parallelisms being made between Ms Arroyo and Thaksin.

To illustrate the President's confidence in her staying power, Malacañang announced that she would go on another trip to China next month in full awareness that Thaksin was ousted while on an official visit to New York.

"We continue to pray for peace and unity among the Thai people as we anticipate the restoration of full democratic processes in the earliest possible time. We are relieved that the Thai nation is back to work and that the situation is easing," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"Thailand is an ally of the Philippines in all spheres of political, economic and security cooperation, and we are strong partners in the fight against terror and poverty in the region," he said.

To dismiss speculation that Ms Arroyo might go the way of Thaksin, Bunye reiterated the military's fealty to the Commander in Chief.

"The Filipino people are united behind their democratic institutions, while the AFP and the [police] are one behind the Constitution and the chain of command. The paranoia about military rule is misplaced," he said.

Resilient economy

Bunye also tried to distance the local situation from Thailand's by underscoring the Philippines' economic gains.

"We are confident that our economy will sustain its resiliency and strength through the remaining months of the year despite the vagaries in the world economy. Soon enough we will see the payback to the poor through improved infrastructure, enhanced social services and better education for all—as we close the income gap," he said.

As further proof that Ms Arroyo was unfazed by Thaksin's fate, Presidential Management Staff chief Arthur Yap said in an interview with dzMM radio that she would make a trip to China next month as scheduled.

Yap said the President had scheduled more foreign trips next year than in the last 12 months because she had plenty of international opportunities to push for and strengthen the country's diplomatic and trade relations.

With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Nicole turns 23; her wish: Justice

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHEN "NICOLE" TURNED 22 LAST YEAR, she marked the occasion with a memorable party at her family's canteen in the company of her closest friends, most of them US Marines.

Her 23rd birthday yesterday was a total turnaround, with her now up against four US Marines in a landmark rape case that Filipino women's groups consider as a symbol of the prevailing American arrogance over a former colony.

There was no prior announcement that Nicole planned to attend yesterday's hearing. But an hour before the 1 p.m. hearing was to start, she showed up with her mother and 23 of her sympathizers at the back of the old Makati City Hall, where hearings have been held since the trial began in June.

The visit was quite brief.

Members of Task Force Subic Rape, a women-led coalition of 17 organizations, gave her the biggest butter cake they could get. On it was inscribed: "Justice for Nicole, Justice for our Nation."

Her face barely concealed by a fisherman's hat and sunglasses, she blew out her birthday candles and made her only wish—justice.

Later in a phone interview with the INQUIRER, Nicole said: "I have come to better know how [US Marines] really are, although I am not saying they are all like that. There are others who know how to respect women. But somehow, I became dismayed with them [in general] after what happened to me."

She said that despite it being her birthday, she could not help but keep her mind on the case, especially in the light of her unsettled dispute with the public prosecutors arguing her case.

"It is hard to celebrate, to be happy, with all that is happening. I know that there are still many who believe in me, who support me, and I appreciate that. But I am still sad because I still think about the case," she said, adding:

FSR B-DAY WISH:
VICTORY FOR NICOLE
AND OUR NATION
23
NICOLE
JUSTICE FOR OUR
NATION
FROM TFS
SUBIC R

EDWIN BACASMAS

JUSTICE for Nicole is the birthday wish on the cake of the 23-year old Zamboanga girl who accused four US soldiers of raping her.

"I hope that even if it's the defense now presenting evidence, I will get justice."

And how has she changed since her last birthday?

"I think I am more mature now in that I chose to fight instead of just being silent. I want to show them that I can fight them," Nicole said.

Most drunken of 4 GIs . . .

From page A1

Asked by his counsel, Enrico Uyehara, what he meant by "involved," the soldier said he "heard kissing, moaning and laughter at the back."

He said he and Silkwood were seated on the middle seats of the van, Carpentier next to the Filipino driver (Timoteo Soriano Jr.) and Smith and Nicole on the back seat.

Duplantis referred to Nicole only as "a Filipino female" and said he saw her for the first time inside the van. This was after Carpentier had come to collect him, Smith and Silkwood from the Neptune Club in the Subic Bay Freeport in time for their midnight curfew, he said.

He said he was just "walking around" most of the time at the Neptune and never saw Nicole while he was there.

He also said he was likely the last passenger to have boarded the van because he was seated next to the sliding door.

Self-explanatory

During cross-examination, Duplantis was confronted by De los Santos with a report from the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) based on its interview with him four days after the purported rape.

The NCIS report, De los Santos noted, quoted Duplantis as saying he saw Smith "on top of the girl, humping."

What is "humping?" the prosecutor asked.

Duplantis initially said the term should be self-explanatory, but later said it referred to Smith's body "moving up and down."

De los Santos also cited portions in the NCIS report where, according to Duplantis, the van stopped and he spent a moment "laughing and clowning around" with two other Marines who had approached the vehicle, Corporals Correy Burris and Albert Lara.

Duplantis maintained that his laughing fit with Burris and Lara was not directed at Smith and Nicole. Later, he said, that roadside meeting turned comic probably because "I tipped over" when Burris suddenly opened the door.

Alcohol content

De los Santos made Duplantis recall how he spent his liberty the entire day of Nov. 1—or before going to the Neptune. She also asked him how much alcohol he had imbibed in each place he went to.

The soldier said he spent time in two casinos, a restaurant and another bar before ending up at the Neptune with Smith and Silkwood.

He admitted, per De los Santos' count, that he had consumed a maximum of 13 bottles of beer by the time his liberty was over.

De los Santos pointed out that according to Silkwood during his own testimony, Duplantis was the "most drunk" of the pack on that night.

"I would say so, ma'am," Duplantis said.

Twice, De los Santos tried to formulate a question that seemed to have been premised on Duplantis being drunk: "You want the court to believe that what you tell us about the behavior inside the van ... after your drinking 13 bottles of beer...?"

But she failed to complete her question and withdrew it.

Asked what he thought was Nicole's reason for charging him with rape, Duplantis said: "I can't say for a fact what her reason is."

"With that, we thank you for telling your story to the Marines," a sarcastic De los Santos told the witness, marking the end of the grilling.

Female witness

Also at the hearing, defense lawyers said they would try to present next Thursday a female witness from Subic. But they declined to name her, saying she might change her mind about testifying.

Smith's lawyer, Ricardo Diaz, said this witness might be "dissuaded by external parties interested in this case" if her name were disclosed this early.

Despite the objections of prosecutors who pointed out that both camps had agreed against the presentation of "surprise" witnesses, Judge Pozon allowed the defense tack on condition that the name of the new witness would be divulged at the hearing on Monday.

At the resumption of the trial, the prosecution is expected to cross-examine the defense's expert witness, Dr. Teresita Sanchez.

Diaz said that if they would not be able to produce the unnamed witness by Thursday, the defense would rest its case.

De los Santos said the prosecution intended to conduct a rebuttal, for which it might present up to three witnesses.

After being apprised of the number of future witnesses, Pozon said he had "plan[ned] to issue a decision before the anniversary of the incident."

Ursua

But Nicole's private lawyer, Evalyn Ursua, may finally see some action.

In a one-page memorandum issued yesterday to the public prosecutors, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said: "You are directed to allow the private prosecutor to actively participate in the prosecution of the case under the direct control and supervision of your panel."

Asked on the phone whether, in issuing the memo, he was giving credence to Nicole's claim that the public prosecutors were incompetent in handling the case, Gonzalez answered in the negative.

"I have full faith and confidence in my prosecutors," he said.

Gonzalez also said the memo was meant to address Nicole's complaint that Ursua was "not being made to participate, and given the fact that under the law the private prosecution is under the direct control and supervision of the public prosecutors."

"So I told my prosecutors to let her (Ursua) handle that, let her do the cross-examination if she likes ... to satisfy [Nicole's camp]," he said.

Pressed for other reasons for giving in to Nicole, Gonzalez said: "You know why? ... If this case is lost, for example, the whole blame will be placed on our prosecutors. Even if they did their best, it will not be the judge that will be blamed but my prosecutors, considering the propaganda against [them] now."

Asked whether his memo was intended to deflect blame in the event that the case was lost, he said: "I think they will still say that ... We want to see how good they are."

Bolante

Gonzalez said he was "happy" that in Nicole's letter to the Department of Justice, there was no mention of the case of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, who is seeking asylum in the United States.

(Last week, Nicole's mother said De los Santos had warned that the rape case could be traded off with Bolante's case if Nicole did not agree to a settlement—a claim that the public prosecutor vehemently denied.)

"That Bolante story was punctured already. They themselves know that that story is full of holes," he said.

And his birthday wish for Nicole?

"I wish her the best, but I also wish her the good sense to understand the prosecution's position," he told the INQUIRER.

In an interview with DOJ reporters, Gonzalez said his wish for Nicole was that "she would be a good citizen of this country." *With a report from Armand N. Nocum*

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OPINION

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Justice at last?

EDITORIAL

IT TOOK ALL OF 19 YEARS, BUT THE FAMILY OF Maximo Lorenzo can at least see a flicker of hope that justice will finally be done—even if only partial justice. The Court of Appeals has affirmed a lower court decision finding Sulpicio Lines liable for breach of contract of carriage when it failed to bring Lorenzo safely to his destination and ordered the shipping firm to pay his family close to P15 million in damages.

Lorenzo, a geodetic engineer, was among the more than 4,300 passengers and crew members who perished when the M/V Doña Paz, owned by Sulpicio Lines, sank in the waters between Mindoro and Marinduque after colliding with the oil tanker M/T Vector on Dec. 20, 1987. Although the ship had almost three times the number of passengers it was allowed to carry and although it plowed into a slow-moving tanker, the Board of Marine Inquiry found no reason to blame the shipping company or its crew for the tragedy which has been described as the world's worst marine disaster in peace time.

Several suits citing Sulpicio Lines for criminal negligence have either languished in the courts or have been resolved in the company's favor. In 1992, for instance, a Manila regional trial court decision held Sulpicio Lines "solely responsible" for the accident and ordered it to pay P1.2 million to the heirs of two victims. Four years later, the Court of Appeals absolved the shipping company of any liability and laid the blame for the accident on Vector and Caltex Phils., which had hired the tanker, and ordered them to reimburse Sulpicio Lines for any money it had given to the victims. But in another decision issued early this year, the Court of Appeals ruled that Caltex could not be held liable for the accident.

The latest Court of Appeals decision still does not assign criminal responsibility for the tragedy to Sulpicio Lines. The court merely found the company guilty of breach of contract for failing to bring Lorenzo to Manila as he had paid for. It hardly satisfies the cry for justice of all the heirs of the 4,300 victims. But it does point the way to finding some measure of redress after the Board of Marine Inquiry practically allowed Sulpicio Lines to get away with what looked to everyone else like a clear case of criminal conduct.

To this day, Sulpicio Lines has paid the victims' families a pittance for their loss and their grief. Of course, not everyone on board the Doña Paz was an engineer, but if each of the victims would be awarded even just the P1 million in moral and exemplary damages given to the Lorenzos, then Sulpicio Lines will have to cough up billions of pesos in compensation.

If that should sink the company financially, so be it. That might even make local sea travel safer. Since the Doña Paz tragedy, ships of Sulpicio Lines have been involved in at least two other serious accidents. In 1988, M/V Doña Marilyn sank off Leyte amid stormy weather, killing 254 people. Ten years later, the largest ship on the company's fleet, M/V Princess of the Orient, sank hours after leaving the port of Manila, killing at least 63 people.

That is hardly a reassuring safety record, but the wonder is that the government continues to let the company operate. And because nobody has been punished severely for marine accidents that killed hundreds of people or even thousands, many ship owners continue to play with other people's lives by overloading their boats and sailing even in nasty weather, while the Philippine Coast Guard and port authorities look the other way.

Satire

FOREIGN COMMENT

WHILE SOME MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD ARE satisfied with Pope Benedict XVI's declaration about his speech in Germany, others still call for an apology, while some continue to show off with violent demonstrations and death threats.

Islamic extremism has mobilized to show its capability to gain hegemony over the Muslim world, to show just how strong it is while claiming how the West remains weak and fearful.

During the crisis caused by the satirical cartoons (depicting Prophet Muhammed), Europe has suffered the most resounding aggression against its freedom of expression since the days of totalitarianism and, for the most part, the conflict was won by the aggressor.

Europe has tacitly acknowledged that from now on, the freedom to use satire can be applied to everything except Islam, where, in comparison, self-censorship is a duty. *Corriere della Sera (Milan, Italy)*

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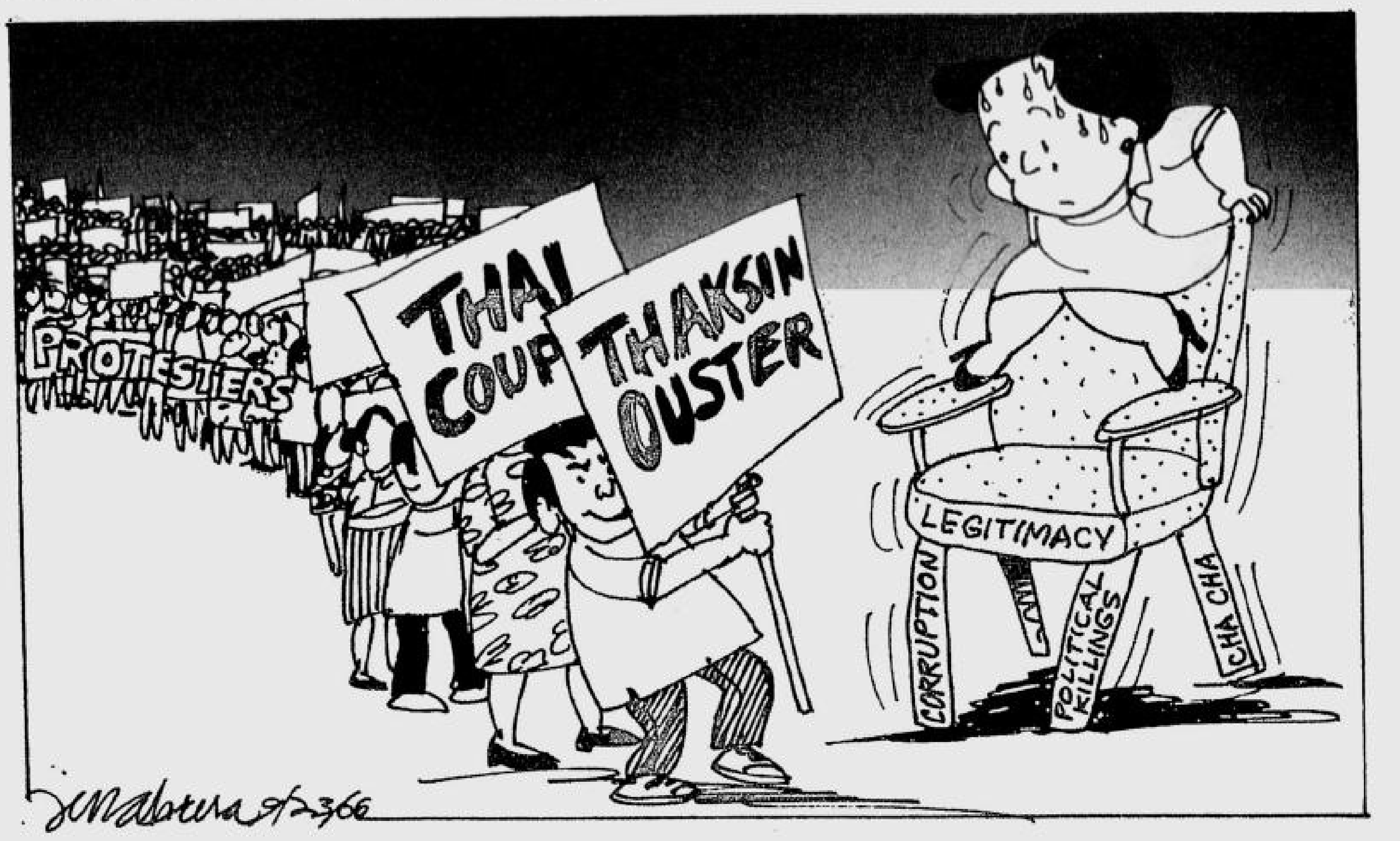


Memories of martial law

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

IT WAS LIKE ANY ORDINARY MORNING ON that 23rd day of September 34 years ago. Recollection has been blurred over that long gulf from the past. But I still remember some of the serio-comic things that made it a memorable adventure.

I woke up early as usual to meet my 7 o'clock class at the UE College of Law in Political Law Review. Traffic on the way was ordinary without the weekday rush. The absences were noticeable that morning but after all it was Saturday and the start of the relaxed week-end. Recitation was lively and nobody got a "five." That morning class, as I recall, was especially bright.

After the bell and as I was preparing to go home, a student approached me and informed me that Marcos had declared martial law. I was surprised but not particularly so because people had sort of expected it. Rumors of that likelihood had been rife for days and many thought it was just a matter of time. Speaker J. B. Laurel Jr. and I had been in Hong Kong the week before preparatory to going to China, but we postponed it and decided to come home.

On the way back to my house in Merville, I noticed a disturbing sign of things to come. It was the number of soldiers in the streets. They were just standing there holding their rifles, but just looking idly anywhere without molesting or arresting people. I think they just wanted to have their presence felt, on orders from their officers.

Later on, in the succeeding days and weeks and months and years, they would be more demanding and menacing. But on that first day of martial law, they were not yet strutting.

At home, I found my family anxiously awaiting me, not with trepidation but curiosity. They wanted to know what was happening or what was going to happen. My boys were much younger then, with Cesar the eldest only 19 and Gani the youngest just turned 12. Candy, our *bunso*, was barely 5 and still playing with her Hello Kitty toys.

I think the top worry of my sons then was what was going to happen to their hair. Like many of the boys their age, they were wearing their hair long and puffy and unkempt. That was the style of the day and the trouble was that it did not jibe with the new slogan that *"para umunlad ang bayan, disiplina ang kailangan."* (Discipline is necessary for the nation to progress.)

In the days that followed, soldiers were stationed at various places to cut the long hair of teenage boys. Riding with me one day past a military checkpoint, my son Caloy lay down on the floor of the car to hide from the barber-soldiers. As a libertarian father, I did not interfere with my sons' hirsute style because it was their hair, after all. But I secretly thought that martial law, for all its offensiveness, did have some dubious benefits.

Those who lived through that first day of our long tribulation can never forget the unwelcome and repeated appearances on television of Francisco Tatad announcing the declaration of martial law two days earlier. All other television and radio stations had been silenced except those that carried the news for all to hear and bear. I still keep a copy of the Sunday Express for the next day with the baleful headline.

And what about the government of the Republic of the Philippines? It was a shambles. Congress was abolished and the Legislative Building was padlocked. The Supreme Court was intimidated and effectively castrated. The local governments fell into line and became the rooters of the new regime. The media were censored and public assemblies were outlawed. The Bill of Rights was debased on the pretext of strengthening the national security.

Ferdinand Marcos came on the cover of Time magazine as the new dictator in Asia. The original draft of the 1973 Constitution was revised to suit the absolute ruler of the New Society. It was ratified by the citizens assemblies with an open show of hands forced through the barrel of the gun. Every enemy of the despot became an insurgent subject to arbitrary execution. Amendment No. 6 ordained the absolute immunity of the man who could do no wrong.

The bitterest blemish of that dark period that started on that fateful day was the assassination of Ninoy Aquino, nemesis of Marcos, who was later revealed to have ordered the acquittal of the soldiers accused of the murder on orders from above. The funeral of the stricken hero was grieved by millions of Filipinos who realized that the bell was tolling not only for Ninoy but for the rest of the nation.

It was the light at the end of the tunnel that was finally to usher the fall of Marcos. The angry gathering at Edsa began with a few hardy souls that grew into thousands and swelled into millions from all parts of the outraged country. Men and women (and children too) from all walks of life, the rich and the poor, teachers and their pupils, poet and peasant alike, and even an old *lola* in her wheelchair—all joined at last in welcoming the return of their lost liberties.

Sept. 21, 1972 started for us an ordeal of slavery made more odious because it was imposed upon us not by a foreign tyrant but by a fellow Filipino. Has that travail taught us a lesson in the defense and exaltation of our freedom?

Parliamentary lessons from Thailand and Hungary

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THEY TOLD US THAT IF WE BUT SHIFTED TO a parliamentary system, there would be no more coups. They told us that if we but shifted to a parliamentary system, there would be no more need for "people power" demonstrations. They told us that many other good things would happen if we but shifted to a parliamentary system (the end of poverty, the beginning of wealth for all). For now we pay attention to the first two benefits mentioned above. And by "they," I refer to Speaker Jose de Venecia et al.

Nothing like a show-and-tell to put a point across or to demolish it. And the events in Thailand and Hungary are cases in point. Thailand has just experienced a military coup that toppled the government. It had been experiencing several "people power" demonstrations against the now deposed prime minister. People in Hungary have been going to the streets to force their prime minister out. (They found out he had lied, making out the economic conditions in Hungary to be better than they were.) Both countries have parliamentary forms of government. So much for the claim that a parliamentary system automatically provides political stability.

There is an irony about the present Thai situation, which should not be lost on us: the Thai opposition claimed that they were fighting for democracy, that Thaksin was killing it with his authoritarian leanings, that he "refused to accept fundamental democratic values like transparency, honesty and freedom of speech."

"Our country has entered the Dark Ages led by the most powerful politician since military dictators ruled the country in the 1950s and 1960s." This was how a political opponent described Thailand under Thaksin.

But what have they gotten for their efforts? Their country is now under a military dictatorship which has gagged the media, banned all political meetings with five people, postponed elections—for an indefinite period of time. Meanwhile, a "Democratic Reform Council" calls all the shots. Isn't it strange that the more undemocratic or unreformed a situation is, the more it uses words like democracy and reform?

Just seven months ago, a similar fate awaited us, but we escaped it. Thanks to elements in our military who refused to fall in with the plotters, and, yes, to the Arroyo administration for its handling of the situation. And while Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can thank her lucky stars that she survived the coup attempt, the Filipino people also have every reason to be grateful. Show me anyone who says that anyone, even a military dictator, would be better than GMA, and I will show you an idiot who would not hesitate to cut off his nose to spite his face.

Besides the difference (at least for the present) in their political fates, there is one other difference between GMA and Thaksin: the latter was far more popular than the former. He and the party he founded (Thai Rak Thai) won handily both the 2001 and 2005 general elections, with the 2005 elections giving him an even greater majority in parliament (377 out of 500 seats, from 248 in 2001). Even when he called for snap elections early this year, it was widely accepted that he would win again, albeit with a much reduced majority—which is probably why the opposition chose to boycott the elections and caused the political stalemate that provided the opportunity for the military to step in.

But other than that, there are rather striking similarities between the political circumstances and policy choices of GMA and Thaksin, some of which may be deliberate rather than coincidental (GMA seems to have admired Thaksin's political and economic acumen). Both Thaksin and GMA, at one time or another, were faced with the same accusations: hiding their wealth (he by transferring shares to family members, friends, even security guards; she by putting titles in the name of in-laws); giving positions to old school friends; using government resources for electioneering; sweetheart or other deals in the building of a new international airport.

They both have faced down large demonstrations mounted by the opposition, which both Filipinos and Thais seem to disfavor (in Thailand, 87 percent of the respondents were against, only 5 percent were in favor of the rallies); they both have faced large swings in popularity within relatively short periods of time (GMA experiencing more meteoric declines); they both have seen loyal supporters turn into venomous critics; they assiduously court local governments and the countryside population, from which they get most of their support.

That is not all. Both have been accused of autocratic tendencies and actions (he as a dictator, she of creeping martial law); their election commissions have been under attack (successfully in Thailand, where all election commissioners were forced to resign; unsuccessfully here); charges of extrajudicial killings have been hurled against both administrations (2,500 killed or disappeared in his anti-drug campaign, including deaths due to military maltreatment of suspected insurgents).

One of the most recent (and most criticized) moves of GMA—to allow state agencies to grant credit as part of giving the poor easier access—is pure Thaksin.

Thaksin, with all his popularity, has been kicked out of office. GMA, with all her unpopularity, remains. Maybe, just maybe, democracy runs more than skin-deep in the Philippines. Something we should be proud of. And should protect.

Fallacies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE ARE TWO FALLACIES ABOUT THE recent military coup in Thailand going around. One is that it could encourage a similar coup here; the other is that it's a sign that the parliamentary system, which operated in Thailand until the coup, does not bring about the stability that Charter change advocates have been crowing about.

For one thing, the recent Thai coup is part of a long saga: the Thai military has ruled the country for almost 46 years out of 73. I recall that the late Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto, who was once ambassador to Bangkok, used to tell me how two factions of the Thai military would face each other, just like in the movies about old historic battles, but without firing a shot, and come to terms. On the other hand, as Rep. Edcel Lagman pointed out, "In RP we flex ideas rather than muscles; we mobilize opposition movements rather than armaments."

* * *

Thailand's parliamentary system is a young one, and the recent military adventurism is an indication of the need for it to mature. Note that in a mature parliamentary system such as Britain's, there's plenty of dissatisfaction with the political leadership, but any hint of military intervention is unthinkable. Thailand's military takeover has been condemned around the world as tragic and absolutely unnecessary, as a system for replacing the leadership is in place. *Nainip lang ang* military because of Thaksin's shrewd maneuverings. But the recent event doesn't take anything away from the parliamentary system. We ought to commence this system at the earliest possible time, so that it can mature to its enviable fullness in other vibrant democracies.

* * *

Earlier I cited the observation that many descendants of Filipino *sakadas* who worked the sugar plantations in Hawaii for decades, as well as later immigrants, may have just transferred to another kind of "plantation economy," which is the highly successful tourism industry. This is because modern-day Filipinos comprise 75 percent of personnel in the lower rungs of jobs in the hotel and allied industries. But there are also many success stories about *sakada* descendants and later immigrants, who succeeded in various professions by dint of education and training and a strong work ethic.

Many stories here are courtesy of Honolulu's "historian," and frequent INQUIRER contributor, Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, who left as a UP graduate student in the early 1960s to pursue a master's degree in political science at the University of Hawaii. Lindy, who earned her doctorate degree at Cornell University, decided to stay in Honolulu after martial law in Manila in 1972 "stranded" her there. I have urged her to put her wealth of knowledge about the islands in a socio-historical book, from which she could draw her retirement fund.

* * *

Perhaps the most successful is former two-term Gov. Benjamin Cayetano, the only Filipino descendant to attain that top executive post. His father, Bonifacio, went to Hawaii from Urdaneta, Pangasinan, in the late 1940s with his two young sons, Ben and Kenneth, and worked in the hotel service. Ben attended Farrington High School in a "Pinoy suburb" and soon after married his high-school sweetheart, Lorraine. He took odd jobs to raise his family. One day, he won $1,000 in a lottery and decided to go to Los Angeles, where he took undergraduate studies at the UCLA and a law degree at Loyola University, with the help of Lorraine who worked as a waitress.

Returning to Hawaii in the early 1970s, Ben was appointed by Democratic Gov. John Burns to the Hawaii Housing Authority. Subsequently, he entered politics where he stayed for 28 years. After serving first as representative and then senator in the state legislature, he ran for lieutenant governor in the ticker of Governor Wahie, the first native Hawaiian to be elected after statehood. In 1994, Cayetano ran for governor and won, and in 1998, he ran against Maui Mayor Linda Lingle and won by just 5,000 votes.

As he rose in politics, his marriage to Lorraine crumbled. During his second term, Cayetano married an attractive Chinese businesswoman from Binondo named Vicky Liu, who's best remembered as the child actress who sang with Elvis Presley in his Hawaii film series. A straight-talking if at times seemingly tactless politician, the former governor still enjoys a lot of goodwill and respect in the islands.

* * *

Other politicians of Filipino descent bear watching. In today's Democratic primary for the second congressional district, two Filipino descendants are competing with candidates of other races. One is Ron Menor, a Georgetown University law graduate, whose father, Benjamin, went to Hawaii as a 7-year-old with his mother and sister, to join his father, Angelo, of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte. Angelo had been recruited as a plantation worker, but Benjamin was lucky to obtain his undergraduate degree at the University of Hawaii and his law degree in Boston. He became the first Filipino elected to the state Senate and appointed associate justice of the Hawaiian Supreme Court.

Ron, the *sakada's* grandson, served 22 years as state representative and is now a state senator. If he wins this November, he'll be the first Fil-Am to win a seat in the US Congress. His Filipino opponent, Nestor Garcia, is a former media personality and incumbent city councilman, but the *chismis* is that anyone of three candidates of Japanese descent has the edge over them.

Another popular politician is Bobby Bunda, the Senate president of the state legislature, whose Hawaii-born father, Santiago, worked at an Oahu plantation. His mother, Esther Miguel, grew up in a Maui plantation. Bunda's grandparents came from Iloilo and Ilocos Norte in the early 1900s to also work in the plantations.

One thing in common among the *sakada* descendants now making political waves in Hawaii is their zeal in getting a higher education, the only sure ticket to upward mobility.

Covering trafficking

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS INVITED TO TALK YESTERDAY ON THE "Role of the Media" in a panel on "non-traditional partners" during the "First National Conference on Anti-Trafficking in Persons."

The Inter-agency Council on Trafficking had organized the conference, with a slew of funding agencies supporting the effort, and I must say, for me, the most concrete result of the three-day meet was a certificate of appreciation signed by no less than Justice Secretary Raul "Sourpuss" Gonzalez. That's something I'm saving for my grandchildren.

I wasn't able to prepare a paper, so I was working from a rough outline. But here's what I remember saying:

* * *

DURING A conference on human trafficking held some years ago in Washington, D.C., I attended a workshop on trafficking and the media, and one of the speakers, a big cheese in an American newspaper, remarked that "trafficking makes a terrific story." It has all the elements of great news and human interest, he said: drama, crime, law enforcement, international intrigue, human interest and—that old reliable—sex. So why wasn't the issue of trafficking making more headlines around the world?

One of the reasons might be that the news media often view trafficking as part of the "police beat," albeit a topic that often provides sensational footage and photos, often with half-naked women being "rescued" from their pimps, but not before being chased down corridors and stairs by camera operators with glaring klieg lights. No wonder coverage of trafficking has followed the arc of most crime coverage: sporadic, discrete, that is, treated as single incidents with no effort made to link each complaint, arrest or rescue to a "bigger" picture, and shallow in analysis, if at all.

There have even been "buzz words" that have emerged from years of coverage of trafficking, words that have acquired meanings of their own as to become "codes," and which signal specific images by their very mention. Some of these are: "pedophile," "syndicates" and "child prostitute." Hardly any effort is made to explain the definition and context of these code words. Use "pedophile" in a headline, and readers immediately jump to the conclusion that the story is about a foreigner—usually an old white male—who preys on Filipino children. In fact, to most Filipinos, only foreigners can be pedophiles, even if we have a congressman now behind bars who was convicted for having sex with a 12-year-old.

Forgotten are studies that show that most pedophiles are straight men, usually married and with their own families, who are primarily sexually attracted to children. And that there are pedophiles among Filipinos, too.

"Syndicates" also often refer to foreign sex syndicates, again preying on poor Filipinos. Little mention is made of local sex syndicates that prey on their own women and children. The picture one gets is that the Philippines is the happy stomping ground of foreign pimps and customers—as if we did not have our own homegrown pimps and organized sex trafficking operations.

And "child prostitute" often conjures the image of a smart, street-savvy juvenile sex worker, with implications about their willing participation in paid sex, and that they somehow "manipulate" their customers.

* * *

HERE are some suggestions on how media coverage of trafficking could do better:

First, get off this obsession with "foreign" trafficking. While researching and writing the book "Nightmare Journeys: Filipina Sojourns Through the World of Trafficking," I encountered stories of women who followed a route of domestic trafficking before being trafficked abroad—from their small towns to bigger cities, then on to Manila, before they were shipped out of the country. Domestic trafficking feeds global trafficking.

Next, we could draw attention to other aspects of the issue: structural problems in society that render women and children vulnerable, issues of gender inequality and the human rights of women and children, and the sense of male entitlement that feeds the "demand" for a growing pool of trafficked women and children.

If the media are to cover trafficking as a "crime," then they should make the effort to "follow the story" to its real conclusion, and not stop at just the raid or rescue and the arrest. Coverage from arraignment, trial and hopefully conviction, would show both the limitations and potentials of new laws governing trafficking. For instance, I have just found out that through the efforts of a wide range of agencies, the government has been able to win convictions for seven individuals on grounds of trafficking.

* * *

THEN perhaps we should begin asking: "What happens to the survivor?" The trauma and the flashbacks continue well after the trial, and the struggle of women to find new paths for themselves continues.

As I was researching for the book, NGOs which have worked with women survivors of trafficking appealed to me to write not so much about the victimization of the women, as about their recovery and empowerment.

For many of these women, "success" is defined not by momentous steps, but by simple aspirations. One woman I interviewed had told me that during the years that she was being kept inside a brothel in Ermita, she would stare out the window and wonder if any man would ever be able to love her and start a family with her because she was no longer "pure." When I asked her how she was doing, after coming back from Japan and deciding to leave the "entertainment" business, she smiled and said she was "happy," because she had met a security guard and had two children by him. They lived in an urban poor area, but she was happy because finding a good man and starting a family was an elusive dream that she believed was beyond her reach.

The democratic hopes of Iraqis

WORLD VIEW

Mansoor Moaddel

THE ESCALATING VIOLENCE IN IRAQ GIVES A bleak impression of that country's prospects. Sectarian conflict seems to be increasing on a daily basis, with militias massacring hundreds of Sunnis and Shiites solely on the basis of their religious identities.

Yet it would be a mistake to think that this bloodlust represents widespread sentiment among Iraqis. While neither American nor Iraqi security officials have yet found a way to tame the militias, it appears that the Iraqi public is increasingly being drawn toward a vision of a democratic, non-sectarian government for the country.

In 2004 and 2006, I was involved in conducting two nationwide public opinion surveys in Iraq. The findings of these surveys demonstrate that over the two years during which the incidence of sectarian violence rose, Iraqis have increasingly viewed their fate in a national, rather than communal, context.

Over this period, the number of Iraqis who said it was "very important" for Iraq to have a democracy increased from 59 percent to 65 percent. These same Iraqis saw a link between an effective democracy and the separation of religion and politics, Western-style. Overall, those who responded they "strongly agree" that "Iraq would be a better place if religion and politics were separated" increased from 27 percent in 2004 to 41 percent in 2006. Particularly significant were increases from 24 percent to 63 percent during this period among the Sunnis and from 41 percent to 65 percent among the Kurds. Among the majority Shiites, the figure remained stable, with 23 percent strongly agreeing in both 2004 and 2006.

Similarly, the survey found declining support for an Islamic state. Between 2004 and 2006, the number of Iraqis who said it was "very good to have an Islamic government where religious leaders have absolute power" fell from 30 percent to 22 percent. A similar downtrend was seen in all three leading ethnic communities: From 39 percent to 35 percent among the Shiites; from 20 percent to 6 percent among the Sunnis; and from 11 percent to 5 percent among the Kurds. There was some increase in the number of Shiites who thought that there should be a strong religious element in national laws, but the majority still opposed this proposition.

Nationalist sentiment is also increasing. Asked whether they considered themselves "Iraqis, above all" or "Muslims, above all," the 2006 survey found that 28 percent of Iraqis identified themselves as "Iraqis, above all," up from 23 percent in 2004. In the capital, Baghdad, the center of so much sectarian violence, the numbers were even more impressive, with the share of the population who saw themselves as "Iraqis, above all" doubling, from 30 percent to 60 percent.

By contrast, similar surveys in other Arab capitals find a decided tilt toward a Muslim identity. In Amman, Jordan, the most recent figure on those who put their national identity ahead of their Muslim identity is 12 percent. The figure is 11 percent in Cairo, and 17 percent in Riyadh. Curiously, in Tehran, the choice is markedly in favor of an Iranian, rather than Muslim, identity. Among residents of the Iranian capital, the share of "nationalists" soared from 38 percent in 2000 to 59 percent in 2005.

At the same time, Iraqi attitudes show a strong reaction to daily violence. Between 2004 and 2006, those who strongly agreed that life in Iraq is "unpredictable and dangerous" increased from 46 percent to 59 percent. The change was felt in all communities, rising from 41 percent to 48 percent among the Shiites, from 77 percent to 84 percent among the Sunnis, and from 16 percent to 50 percent among the Kurds. At the same time, the surveys found in all these three major groups little support for sectarian conflict.

The violence has had a major effect on Iraqi attitudes toward foreigners. By 2006, distrust of Americans, British, and French had reached 90 percent, and attitudes toward Iraq's neighbors were also tense. More than half of Iraqis surveyed said that they would not welcome Turks, Jordanians, Iranians, or Kuwaitis as neighbors. These feelings, it appears, are directly related to the violence gripping Iraq, and the role of foreigners in the country's perilous security situation.

So it appears that the Iraqis are showing greater attachment to their national identity and are supportive of a non-sectarian approach to government. These are the basic traits of a modern political order. Among the Sunnis, the decline in support for an Islamic state is most dramatic, and may have significant ramifications for the ability of religious extremists to recruit from them.

Although Iraqis remain angry about the violence in their country, this anger has not undermined their sense of national identity. At the same time, they appear to be holding on to important democratic values. The key question, of course, remains: Whether these values can be translated into a peaceful reality.

Project Syndicate

Mansoor Moaddel is professor of Sociology at Eastern Michigan University and the author of "Islamic Modernism, Nationalism, and Fundamentalism: Episode and Discourse."

Interconnected

YOUNG BLOOD

Rosanna Naig

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I AM NO SUPERHERO. IF I WERE ONE, WE WOULD BE LIVING in a totally different world.

I wrote my first essay on environmental awareness more than a decade ago, when I was in Grade 6. I won P500 for my piece. It was about dreaming of a world where there was no pollution, no diseases, no poverty, no corruption, no disasters, a world where Mother Earth was the No. 1 priority, not politics, not money, not even our own interests. It was how an 11-year-old girl conceived a beautiful Earth made real by our efforts to take good care of what nature gave to us.

I am not writing this piece to win another competition. I don't even expect everyone to spare the few minutes it takes to finish reading it. I just want to bring back the little voice of the 11-year-old girl who believed that all of us are responsible for what happens to the world we live in.

My heart goes out to the children of Guimaras and nearby islands of Western Visayas. They might never see how splendid their beaches once were. They might never get to enjoy the rich marine life that their seas once offered. They might never even get to fulfill their dreams because their parents' source of livelihood has been damaged by a green grime of oil.

I grew up loving the sea and the beaches of Antique. My father, a teacher and part-time farmer and fisherman, went out of his way to let us experience nature's wonders and bounty. Sometimes he would wake us up at 5 in the morning to go fishing. This meant rowing the boat out to sea, casting the net and pulling it up after an hour. My siblings and I enjoyed the fresh smell of the sea, while watching the sun rising. I can say that those are the few things from my childhood that can't be purchased with money.

Greenpeace has called the worst oil spill in our country a "ticking time bomb." There is so little time to contain the damage. It will take years to clean up the mess and even then Guimaras will not be the same heaven that it was before. The oil slick is spreading over the clear and rich waters surrounding the island, ruining the mangroves and the marine wildlife for which it is quite well known. Gone are some of the beautiful, white beaches that the place once offered as a come-on to tourists. Gone are the days when children can have fun day after day on its beaches. They can't even go swimming anymore. Gone are the fishing grounds and many will be going hungry for months or even years to come.

Greenpeace's website has a story about a boy in Grade 6 who wishes that the oil will go away so that he can catch fish and swim in the sea again. I have read about a father who wonders where he will go and what he will do to bring food to his family now that he cannot go fishing. I have seen pictures of whole beaches and mangrove forests covered by oil. Those trees were planted by the people and now all their efforts have gone for naught. Some of them have been afflicted by allergies. A handful are said to have died from breathing noxious fumes from the oil spill. Reading or hearing the news from the place is so depressing.

It has been reported that millions of pesos are needed to suck all the oil left in the sunken tanker and many millions more to clean up the mess. Petron blames the shipping company for the accident. Lawmakers asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a state of calamity. The Philippine Coast Guard at one time declared that the tanker had sprung a new leak, a claim Petron denied.

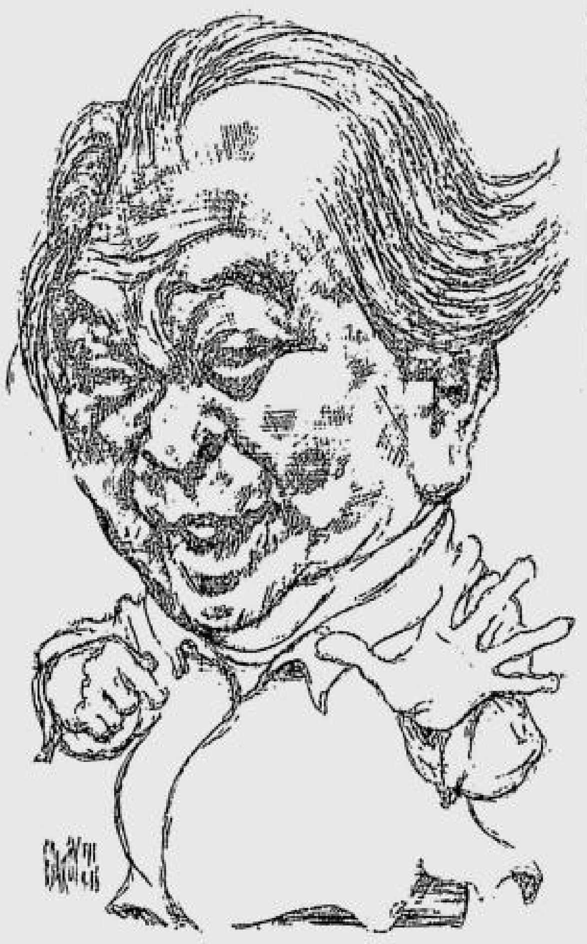
It is as if no one knows what is going on and no one is in charge. Before we know it, the oil slick will have spread to nearby provinces, causing greater damage to the ecosystem.

This is not the time for pointing fingers. This is the time to get our act together to solve the problem. We can ask all the "whys" we can think of without figuring out how we can solve the crisis. Guimaras will never be the same again. We can't bring back its wonders, but we should try to restore whatever we can.

My father may not go fishing anymore, seeing that our town is quite close to Guimaras. I may not taste the fresh catch from the Visayan Sea again. But I can continue to dream of a place where people understand how lives are interconnected and how we should be responsible for each other and for what God has given us.

Rosanna Naig, 22, is a BA Broadcast Communication graduate of the University of the Philippines-Visayas.

IN THE NEWS



Camilo Sabio

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Pope's speech taken out of context

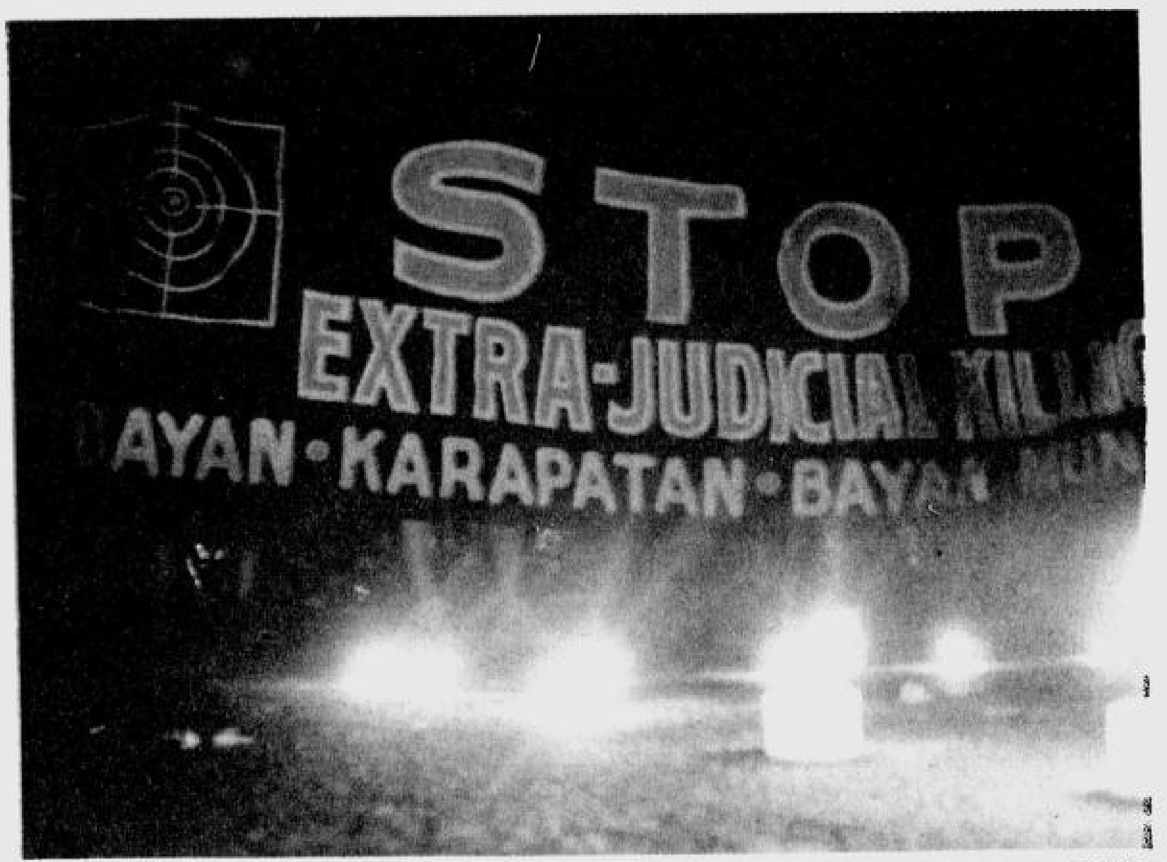
ISLAM'S KIND OF TOLERANCE for other religious beliefs is historically known and widely perceived. While Christianity and other religions generally preach peace and forgiveness, Muslim fundamentalists often issue jihad and fat'wah orders against infidels, including those who offend their religious sensitivity.

I may not agree with the Pope on many issues, and I have a number of Muslim friends. I am, however, objecting to his being unjustly condemned by many uninformed protesters among our Muslim brothers. I understand that he just quoted a Christian emperor's view of Islam centuries ago. What he said was terribly taken out of context.

Among Christian churches, Roman Catholicism is the most ecumenical and most tolerant of Islam—notwithstanding the fact that the Crusades were mostly Catholic endeavors or adventurisms. One reason for such modern-day closeness, I believe, is Islam's respect for the Blessed Mother, whom other Christians ironically ignore. A Muslim friend told me that the Blessed Virgin Mary, called Maryam, appears in one entire sura (S. XIX) of the Holy Koran and is referred to in four other suras.

There are Islamic practices, mostly obligations, which are worth emulating by Catholics and other Christians. There are Catholic practices that complement Islam's tenets. There is simply no reason for anger over what Pope Benedict XVI merely quoted.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ,
420 Gov. A. Pascual St.,
Navotas, Metro Manila



STREET protests go with the international condemnation of extrajudicial killings

PDI PHOTO

Facts speak louder than Usig's claim

WE IN BAYAN MUNA VEHEMENTLY condemn the malicious imputations made by Task Force Usig and the Philippine National Police about Baby Mendiola and lawyer Felidito Dacut who, they alleged, were murdered by their colleagues in our party because of "financial opportunism." True to form, these two agencies are acting more like propaganda machines out to cover up the responsibility of the Arroyo administration in the extrajudicial killings, and less like the professional law enforcers they profess themselves to be.

In truth, both Mendiola and Dacut were outstanding leaders of Bayan Muna and we are exceedingly proud of their exemplary record as mass leaders. They were respected members of Bayan Muna and of their communities. Mendiola was about to attend the Isabela provincial anniversary celebration, to which she was invited by the governor (proof of the good standing of our party and our local leaders), when assassins rained bullets on her and her partner who was also a Bayan Muna local leader.

Dacut was a beloved human rights lawyer in Eastern Visayas, choosing to offer his professional services to paupers, many of whom support our party. He was murdered in broad daylight by motorcycle-riding assassins, reminiscent of the tactics perpetrated by fascist regimes of Latin America.

Let us stick to the facts—the fact of the PNP's disinterest in immediately investigating the murders of Mendiola and Dacut, the fact that they were killed near police and military detachments, the fact that the assailants struck in the familiar modus operandi used against more than 700 other victims nationwide, the fact that people like Mendiola and Dacut were known critics of the Arroyo administration in their localities, the fact that the military and police have identified our party and our leaders as enemies of the state and as targets in their counterinsurgency operations.

We demand that Task Force Usig and the PNP stop the bloody intrigue against victims of extrajudicial killings and against Bayan Muna. Bloody intrigue and black propaganda will not solve these murders. Worse, the cruel government spin wrongly justifies and encourages more killings. Families of victims of extrajudicial killings are fed up with this transparent and cruel effort to conceal the role of purportedly professional law enforcers in this unending carnage of innocents.

—REYNALDO LESACA JR., M.D.,
chair; NATHANAEL SANTIAGO,
secretary general, Bayan Muna,
153 Scout Rallos St.,
Kamuning, Quezon City

Cayetano's skewed logic

REP. ALAN PETER CAYETANO has accused First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and President Macapagal-Arroyo of stashing away millions of dollars in a German bank. When asked to prove his accusation, Cayetano in effect said: I will prove it if you supply me the evidence of your German bank deposits by waiving your privacy rights vis-à-vis those deposits.

If a waiver is first required to prove Cayetano's accusation, then it follows that Cayetano does not have the evidence to start with. The Arroyos need not prove their innocence. The burden of proving the accusation against the Arroyos is on Cayetano. I think Cayetano's logic is all skewed.

—CARLOS ESTEBAN JR.,
carlesteb33@yahoo.com

Waiver and its non-issuance

OUR PEOPLE ARE KEENLY watching the controversies hounding First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, his son Mikey and his brother Iggy. There is no question that they are openly supported by President Macapagal-Arroyo. The President even went on nationwide television challenging Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano to admit that he made false accusations, or, to resign from Congress.

This open word war among our public officials does not present a good image of our country before the international community.

Cayetano made a public response to the challenge hurled by the President by delivering another straight-forward speech in the House of Representatives. He reiterated his challenge for the members of the First Family to sign a waiver that would allow banks to reveal their deposits (if any) with the banks. The Pateros congressman said this is exactly what Sen. Panfilo Lacson did when Malacañang and its allies accused him of having stashed certain funds in some foreign banks.

The. First Couple and their lawyers brush off the challenge, saying there is no showing of any bank deposit as claimed by Cayetano and, therefore, it would be useless for them to sign a waiver. After all, there is nothing to waive.

For my part, let me say this: Whether you are a layman or a professional, all you need is a simple understanding of the request for a waiver. If, indeed, the Arroyos have no questionable bank deposits, they don't have anything to worry about. Their continuing refusal could only mean that something is being hidden from the public.

—RICARDO TILLO JR.,
San Diego Compound,
Caridad, Cavite City

GMA's heart bleeds only for her very own family

"I AM BREAKING MY SILENCE because I can no longer allow my family to be pilloried," Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said as she condemned Rep. Peter Alan Cayetano for besmirching the reputation of her family by alleging that they have a secret bank account in Germany.

"The President had to make a statement because it involved the honor and integrity of her family," her lawyer added.

What a statement! And so the President got irked only because her family was being accused of corruption. How about the families of those who have been slaughtered in the spate of extrajudicial killings?

She would have been believable and credible had her actions and policies protected Filipino families and their right to enjoy life and basic and social services; if by her example, she teaches the children the value of truth, justice and democracy.

Unfortunately, up to this day, her presidency remains clouded by allegations of fraud and corruption.

Up to this day, the mothers, fathers, daughters and sons of the victims of forced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, many of whom dedicated their lives to the cause of justice, peace and human rights, cry out in vain for justice. Though their work was never financially rewarding, their lives were a shining example of pure, genuine service to the people and society. They never cheated, stole the people's money, or amassed wealth for personal gain. They oppressed no one, dispossessed no one and dishonored no one. Because of the path they chose to take, they were killed.

Ms Arroyo should have spoken loud and clear for family values, integrity and honor when the first victim of the death squads fell. But she said nothing and did nothing. And so the killings became a pattern of impunity that, today, counts over 700 extrajudicial killings. How many more children will have to be orphaned, how many more parents will have to lose their sons and daughters, how many more families will live in pain and agony and terror?

So Ms Arroyo is pained because her family has been accused of keeping secret accounts in a foreign land. Well, let Ms Arroyo tell that to the wife and children of Pastor Isaias Sta. Rosa (who was assaulted, tied and later found dead in a creek with multiple gunshot wounds); to the children of Pepe Manegdeg (into whose body 22 bullets were pumped); to the wife and kids of Rev. Edison Lapuz (who was gunned down inside their house); to the wife and children of environmentalist Noli Capulong (who was shot dead in a public place); or to Nanay Maxima Punzal (whose son was killed right as she cradled her on her lap and begged for his life); and to the families of the rest of the victims.

By her statement, the President has clearly shown she has a heart only for her family but none at all for the rest of the Filipino people.

—NORMA P. DOLLAGA,
general secretary,
Kapatirang Simbahan Para sa
Bayan (Kasimbayan), 3/F NCCP
879 Edsa Quezon City

Efren 'Bata' Reyes a true ambassador of goodwill

THIS IS IN REACTION TO RECAH Trinidad's Sept. 13 column, where he compared Manny Pacquiao and Efren "Bata" Reyes in the matter of money, fame, prestige, limelight and welcome accorded to them when they came back to the Philippines after a victory abroad.

Trinidad failed to cite the following:

With every victory, Manny bests only one person and one nationality; Reyes bests the world's top billiard players, each of them representing a specific country. Many of them represent advanced and powerful countries like the United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Finland. And some of them have admitted that Reyes has been their idol.

Reyes was voted favorite player by the world's top pool players. Hailed by his foreigner-hosts as the "greatest (billiard) player" who ever lived, and as a man "loved by the people of the world regardless of nationality," Reyes is a true ambassador of goodwill. As indeed he has been installed in the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame. He has been sought by foreigners for autograph after some of his games.

—BENONITO C. MEDALLA,
asturias_cebu@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday September 23, 2006

idol
Hosted by
Heart Evangelista
Mon-Fri • 8 PM
ABC
I ♥
Philippine Idol
Exclusive!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	Anime Ring [illegible]		PBA				Letty La Mas Fea		Teka Mona		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Philippine Idol			ABCinema		Sports Unlimited
ABS-CBN 2		Star Magic Presents		Nagmamahal, Kapamilya		Let's Go		Komiks		John En Shirley		TV Patrol World	XXX		Pinoy Dream Academy		Aalog-alog		
AXN		Men In Black II				AXN Shakedown		WRC 2006: Rally [illegible]	E-Buzz	The World's Most Extreme Races		The Contender (Season II)		House (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season II)	
Cartoon Network		Camp Lazlo	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Powerpuff Girls	Robotboy	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	The Flintstones Meet The Jetsons/ [illegible] Race			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Power Rangers Dino Thunder/ Gundam Seed Destiny	Gundam Seed Destiny	The Simpsons	Harvey Birdman (10:45PM)	Justice League	The Batman
Cinema One	Feng Shui				Mano Po 3: My Love				Dubai				Megamol				Exodus		
Cinemax	[illegible] (2:20 PM)			Two For Texas (4:10 PM)				Love Walked In (5:55 PM)			Torque (7:35 PM)			My New Gun			The Specialist (10:40PM)		
CNN	Next@CNN	World News	Inside The Middle East/ [illegible] Global Challenges	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Living Golf/ [illegible] Art of Life	World News	World Sport	World News	Inside The Middle East/ [illegible] Traveller/ [illegible] Global Challenges	CNN Presents/Quest	Next@CNN	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Masterminds	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Prison Break/ Bones		Prison Break		E-Ring		True Crime			
Discovery Channel				History		Power Zone				Perfect Disaster		Deadliest Catch		[illegible]		A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Art Attack/ Billy & Buddy	Totally Spies		Kim Possible	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery/ Hannah Montana	American Dragon	Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Mr. Bean/ Hannah Montana	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	Totally Spies/ Hannah Montana	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Major League Baseball Thursday						2006 Streetball	Motorsport Asia	LPGA Golf Longs Drug Challenge 2nd Rd.				Major League Baseball Friday					
ETC		Everwood 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C 3		Beauty And The Geek 2		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		The Biggest Loser 2		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Skating With Celebrities		Inside The Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:20 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		The Redeemer			[illegible] (4:45 PM)				The Yeltsin Project				Napoleon Part 3			Napoleon Part 4 (10:15PM)			
HBO			Dennis The Menace (3:45PM)				American Flyers (5:20 PM)			The Bourne Supremacy (7:15 PM)				The Sisterhood Of The Traveling Pants				Entourage 17: I Love You Too	Entourage 18: The Sex Mitzvah
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High	Chrono Crusade	D.N.Angel	[illegible]	Love Hina	Super Doll Licca	G3	Voltes V Evolution	Hero TV Theatrox			Mon Colle Knights	Shaman King	Tales At North Hills High
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		EZ Shop	Auto Review	Gotz Ma Gotz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ [illegible]		Bitag		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	My Name Is Earl	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Arrested Development	Last Comic Standing		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	X-Men	X-Men	The Batman	Justice League	Wwe Raw				Weekend At The D.L.	Reno 911!	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Manshow
Lifestyle Network	Life Is Good With Brooke Burke	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra, Jackie Collins Presents Bad & The Beautiful	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits	MTV Arena	The 2006 MTV Video Music Awards						My Own	The Hills	8th & Ocean	MTV Live Orange & Lemons		MTV Hits		MTV Hits		Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	MYXclusive	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic		Mysteries Egypt: Secret Chambers Revealed		Crash Scene Investigation: Train Collision		Crash Scene Investigation: Runaway Train		Sea Hunters: S4- W Queen of Nassau		Mysteries: The Lost Film Of Diana Fossey		Ultimate Engineering: Extreme Machines - Hollywood		Edge of Universe Planets from Hell		Edge of Universe Killers in Space		No Borders: Bombay Calling	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Bakbakan Sa Tagaytay		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice- Debate		OSIS Member's Hour		Isla Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Krusada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	Quadriga	The Planet	Ang Mga Nangi-[illegible]		Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Weekend Report	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tribe	Convergence	Ang Mga Nangi-[illegible]		Ang Pagbubunyag		Net 25 Weekend Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Euromaxx
Nickelodeon	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	The X's	Danny Phantom	Trollz	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle/ Romeo!	Romeo!/ Naturally Sadie	All That	The Brothers Garcia/ All Grown Up	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	[illegible]
PBO			Gabriela				Alkalde Ng Bayan				Mega Concert: [illegible]				Ober Da Bakod 2			The Final Cut	
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Ayl Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown					
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SBN 21								Barangay [illegible]		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan					
Solar Sports						Beach Volleyball: FIVB [illegible] Poland		WNCAA		IBF World Championships Semi-Finals		2006 Ryder Cup Day2							
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Star Movies		Home Alone 2: Lost In New York				The Day After Tomorrow					The Triangle - Ep 03			Freaky Friday			Hide And Seek (10:40PM)		
Star World		Miss World 2006		Miami Vice		Philly		Sons & Daughters	The Drew Carey Show	One Tree Hill		TNA Xplosion		Miss World 2006		J.A.G		Mutant X	
Studio 23								Sports TV	The Contender	7th Heaven (7:15 PM)		The Bachelorette		Barkada Nights					Reel Deal

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Martial law just a page in PMA's history book

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—The chance to earn, not the dark memories of martial law, occupied the attention of soldiers and cadets of the Philippine Military Academy on Thursday.

Arturo Yap, director general of the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), opened six government-subsidized "Tindahan Natin" stores here for academy personnel as part of a state campaign to increase job opportunities nationwide.

But cadets were still assigned to bone up on that piece of history, now that the Thailand army had imposed its own martial law, according to members of the PMA corps of professors.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Nicomedes Corpuz, PMA assistant superintendent, said none of the 1,029 cadets enrolled here were even born during martial law, which the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos imposed on 1972 and which he lifted in 1981.

Corpuz, who entered the academy in 1973, said 34 years is also a long time to keep this memory alive. "Maybe the question we should be asking is whether [talking about martial law] is still relevant... We've matured. We are not dictatorial. The democratic space is already here," he said.

"I myself forgot about [the annual commemoration of martial law] until I was reminded when I saw the newspapers," he said.

But he said the academy has a policy to keep the cadets well informed about issues that have a bearing on their careers, to help insulate them from political bickering "that keeps putting us [the PMA] in the center of controversies."

Corpuz said cadets are briefed about Marcos' martial law regime to teach them one valuable lesson. "We are telling our cadets today, 'When you are in that situation, you should be able to distinguish what is right [from] what is wrong because we now know that not everything our leaders say is correct," he said.

He said this kind of lesson is important for cadets because "these are young officers who are often beholden to veteran officers, who operated under a martial law mindset."

"Not everything your senior officer or the retired officers tell you is true," he said.

Career-minded cadets, who automatically become junior officers upon graduation, will always be confronted by this crisis of conscience because to disobey will be to break the chain of command, he said.

"In the military, [breaking the chain of command] is a mortal sin," he said.

This was echoed by other PMA officials. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

MILF negotiator warns gov't of emergence of radical group

COTABATO CITY—THE chief peace negotiator of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) warned of the emergence of a more radical group that would take advantage of the impasse in the peace process.

The warning was made as the former president of influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) called on civil society to make its presence felt in the peace talks.

Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, DD has urged civil society groups to "put some light on the present impasse" in the peace process.

Mohaqher Iqbal, chief MILF negotiator, said the government peace panel should reconsider its "in the box" position to avoid bigger problems in the future.

"The possibility is always there," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview referring to a more radical group that would take center stage.

"When the peaceful means of resolving the Mindanao conflict is not within reach, there's a possibility that a more radical, more militant group within the Bangsamoro would result to armed struggle to attain the objective of self-determination," he said.

He, however, stressed that within the ranks of the MILF, there are no radical and militant groups, apparently to dismiss claims that a group within the MILF provides sanctuaries to suspected Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf members.

"All bonafide MILF members obey the chain of command," Iqbal said, adding that the non-armed members of the MILF still recognize the organization as the sole representative of Bangsamoro people.

But Iqbal expressed optimism that despite the deadlock on ancestral domain, a "meeting of the minds" will soon come and formal peace negotiations would resume.

MILF guerrillas patrol their base in Camp Darapanan, the main MILF base in Maguindanao. The MILF is warning of the emergence of a radical group amid the deadlock in peace talks with the government.

JEOFFREY MAITEM INQUIRER MINDANAO

"We remain open, we have not shut the door of resolving the conflict through negotiations," he added.

Quevedo, in a statement, said he believed there are always "creative ways" to resolve a conflict.

"Somewhere out there are creative ideas to help both sides get out of the box. Could such a group (civil society) come together to provide a breakthrough?" he said in a statement.

The head of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (Jica) said her meeting last Monday with Muslim rebel leaders left her convinced that "they want to carry on" down the road to peace.

Jica president Sadako Ogata expressed optimism in the on-and-off peace talks between the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, particularly after her government agreed to join truce monitors in Mindanao's decades-old conflict.

Ogata spoke to reporters in Manila at the end of her five-day visit to the country, which included a trip to Cotabato City to check on Jica-funded projects and meet with top MILF leaders.

She said the visit was her way to "observe the terrain" now that Jica, a major donor to Philippine development programs since the 1970s, will have "a new exposure" as part of the International Monitoring Team for the government-MILF truce signed in 2001.

The IMT had included observers from the predominantly Muslim states of Malaysia, Brunei, and Libya.

Ogata reported that the Japanese government has accepted an invitation from the Philippines and IMT member states to join the team.

Jica's new role in the IMT will expectedly result in increased Japanese aid for Mindanao in the form in health, education, or livelihood projects—or what Ogata called "dividends of peace." *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao and Volt Contreras in Manila*

House committee approves ₱8.9-B budget for ARMM

COTABATO CITY—A CONGRESS committee has approved a proposed P8.9-billion budget for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) for next year, according to Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan.

The budget is 8 percent higher than the region's present budget but only 15 percent of the total proposed budget for use in various projects. Sixty percent of it is allotted for wages.

Ampatuan said the House committee on appropriations unanimously approved the proposal during a scheduled budget hearing on Sept. 19, saying members of the committee, led by its chair Rep. Joey Salceda, promptly endorsed and approved the proposed budget.

Ampatuan, who led the justification of the proposed budget of the region, said the efficient handling of the regional government of the problems that were faced by the DepEd-ARMM, particularly on its Government Service Insurance System remittance, was also acknowledged by the committee.

The government also called for the support of the members of the House in finding the means to immediately address the socioeconomic problems of the region, which remains in a worse condition compared to other regions in the country.

Akbayan Rep. Mario Aguja, who congratulated Ampatuan for the prompt remittance of the GSIS contributions of teachers, has filed a motion calling for the allotment of P310 million to pay for the unpaid GSIS premiums of teachers in the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City.

Majority of the members of the appropriations committee likewise recognized this shortcoming and said that they would support initiatives that would move for the additional increase of the region's annual budget.

"ARMM is actually in need of a bigger budget to augment crucial socioeconomic projects that cannot be adequately supported under this proposed budget, which was endorsed by the Department of Budget and Management," Ampatuan said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Landslide pushes jeep into ravine, kills 6

BAGUIO CITY—SIX PEOPLE were killed while three others were reported missing after a landslide in Natonin, Mt. Province pushed a jeep into a ravine on Thursday, reports from the Office of Civil Defense here on Friday showed.

Fred Bragas, an OCD volunteer, said the jeep was on its way to the town proper of Natonin when a minor landslide blocked its path in Barangay Tonglayan at about 5 p.m. Thursday.

Bragas said the male passengers got off the jeep and started clearing the road. It was raining in the area and that particular section of the road was beside a 30-to-50-meter deep ravine, he said.

A few minutes later, a bigger landslide occurred and pushed the jeep into the ravine.

The fatalities were either inside the jeep or were helping in the clearing operations, Bragas said.

They were Arnold Atanen, 35; Annie Domines, 27; Leilani Diwanen, 29; Nando Ornapio, 30; Victoriano Gayochan, 59, and Virgilio Taoey, 36.

The OCD said Bong Baguilat, 36, the jeep driver, and two men remained missing.

At least seven other passengers were hurt and were taken to the Mt. Province District Hospital and the Natonin Municipal Hospital.

Natonin, located in eastern Mt. Province, can be reached after a 12-hour drive from Baguio City.

Landslides are a common occurrence in many parts of the province.

Naguilian Road, which is a route commonly taken by commuters and motorists, is also prone to landslides. *Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

GMA restores direct lending to RP's poor

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has revived a program allowing government agencies to lend money to the poor after she was told that only 20 percent of the population borrow funds from government banks, a top Malacañang official said here.

Secretary Arthur Yap, head of the Presidential Management Staff, said Ms Arroyo is launching in two weeks a larger micro-finance project that will allow more government institutions to engage in direct lending.

The project will also be offered to government employees who face retrenchment under a rationalization program that the Palace wants completed by yearend.

Yap said the agencies' direct lending service will assure retrenched workers that "there is life after government service when you receive your retirement pay."

Ms Arroyo was earlier criticized for issuing Executive Order 558, which restored to government line agencies the authority to offer small-term loans for livelihood programs.

These agencies' direct lending portfolio was discontinued because few borrowers remit their debts, Yap said here on Thursday after inaugurating six state-subsidized "Tindahan Natin" stores.

No recourse

"Many complain that if government lends, no one will pay it back," he said. "They're criticizing the President, 'No, you should not compete with the private sector.'"

But Ms Arroyo had no other recourse, Yap said.

"[Ms Arroyo] said 'What can we do?' There are still about 60 communities that have [no access] to micro-finance and we have to help the poorest of the poor," he said.

Yap said over 97 percent of Filipinos have access to micro-finance institutions, but "their penetration rate is only 20 percent."

"From 2001 to 2006, the micro-finance program of the government's wholesale lenders [like] the Development Bank of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines has released P41 billion, but we don't feel [its presence] and we are not availing [of these funds]," he said.

Yap said Ms Arroyo categorizes four consistent crises that need solutions in reading the country's many ills.

"Of the few very critical concerns of our people, it is always health, it is always education, it is always employment, it is always food. You look at the surveys, it is always [these] four [concerns]," he said.

Both food security and employment are addressed by Ms Arroyo's "Tindahan Natin" program, he said, which encourages entrepreneurship to fill up the country's gaps in job generation.

Yap, also presidential adviser on job generation, said the micro-finance program being laid out by Malacañang would be offered to 330 "Tindahan Natin" operators nationwide to help shore up their operating capital. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

PRESIDENT Arroyo walks with an unidentified official in Malacañang.

JAMES BARR/CONTRIBUTOR

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INQUIRER Visayas

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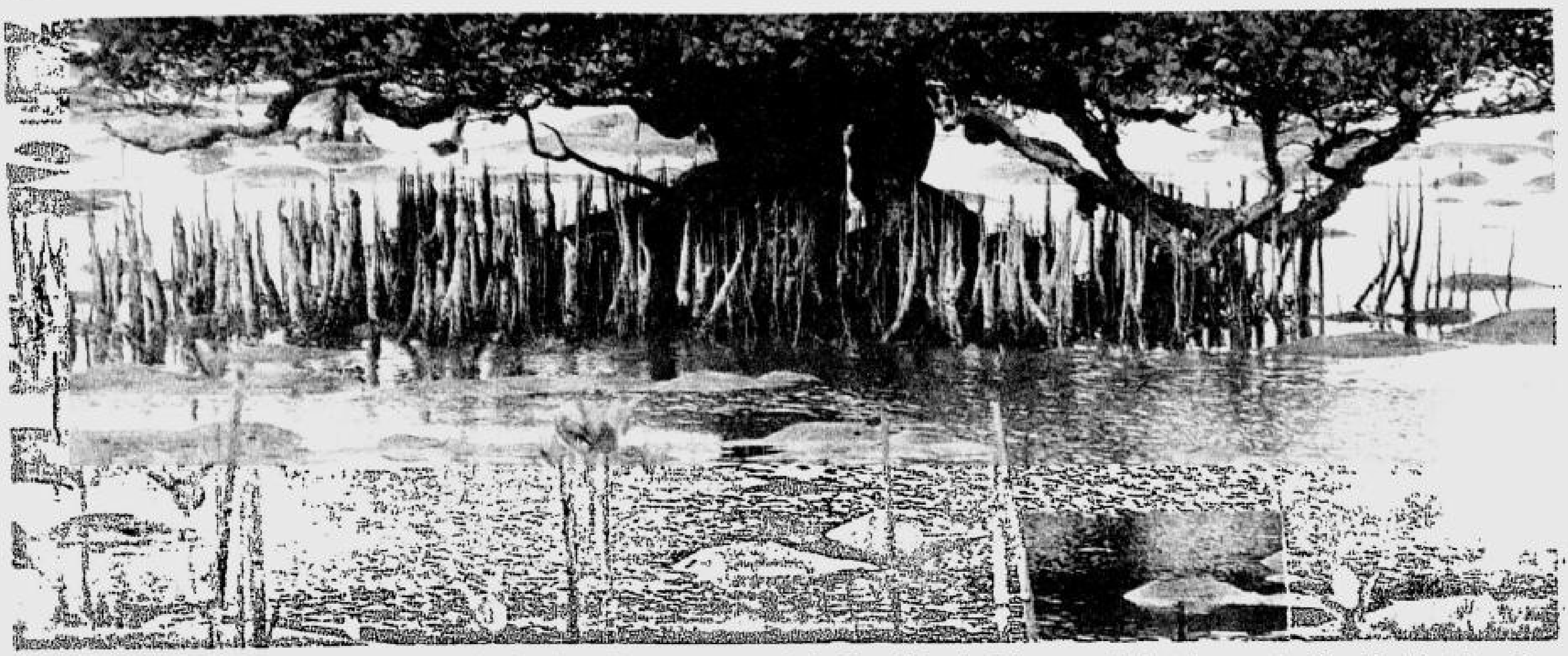

BLACKENED by bunker fuel, these mangroves in the shoreline of Barangay Igdarapdap in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras are lucky to have survived the oil spill last Aug. 11.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Unwanted: Guimaras 'mousse'

By Diosa Labiste and Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

THE "CHOCOLATE mousse" in Guimaras oil spill is not a delectable dessert.

The globules of oil and water are products of emulsification formed by a mixture of small droplets of oil and water while being tossed by waves.

Water entering the viscous oil blobs further makes the "chocolate mousse" sticky and less free flowing. The blobs sink, giving a false impression that it is gone and the threat to the environment has ended.

Scientists say the clean-up operations of the Aug. 11 oil spill caused by the sinking of the MT Solar I tanker carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel oil off southern Guimaras may have removed the unsightly blanket of black matter on the beaches of some coastal villages, but its effects remain.

Bunker fuel oil is toxic, viscous, corrosive, pollutive and persistent and does not degrade rapidly. In fact, chemical dispersants are not effective against it.

Clean-up crew

In a scientific meeting on the biophysical aspect of the environmental disaster held at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (Seafdec) in Tigbauan, Iloilo, on Sept. 15, scientists said the bunker fuel oil's potential hazard must be made known to the clean-up crew and the local residents because it is harmful when absorbed through the skin or when inhaled.

A discussion paper on "The Nature of Oil and its Fate in the Marine Environment," prepared by Ma. Lourdes McGlone and Marcus Nemesio Montaño of the University of the Philippines' Marine Science Institute in Diliman, Quezon City, was presented before 30 scientists and marine science experts.

McGlone and Montaño said the fate of the oil spill depended on several factors—the volume spilled and the prevailing climatic or sea conditions, and its viscosity. Unlike kerosene and gasoline, which evaporate faster, bunker fuel leaves a thick residue.

Evaporation, caused by warm temperature, rough seas and high wind speeds, only removes 5-20 percent of the bunker oil spill, said McGlone.

Oil sheen

Tossed by the waves, it breaks into droplets of varying sizes that subsequently form a slick or thin film called sheen.

The beach clean-up crew can wipe or wash out the oil if it clings to beach rocks and debris but not if the oil has sunk beneath the surface.

Authorities have banned the use of dispersants in Guimaras in the wake of reports that some companies have been testing their chemical products, including dish washing liquid, on shallow waters.

The government's Task Force Guimaras established recently a verification and assessment system to ensure that these products could undertake cleanup operations without harming the environment. Early this month, the Environmental Technology Verification Protocol (ETVP) was set up as a means to evaluate, assess and test any product or technology before such are applied on oil-affected areas.

The oil spill has tainted 100-220 km of coastline, spoiled 1,100 hectares of marine reserves, smothered 454 ha of mangroves, and affected some 26,000 people.

Bio-remediation

"In order to effect this bio-remediation, one has to be very careful in using microorganisms as a cleaning agent," said Julian D. Amador, environment regional executive director in a statement. The US Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA) defines bio-remediation as the natural processes to clean up harmful chemicals in the environment.

"Microscopic bugs or microbes that live in soil and groundwater like to eat certain harmful chemicals, such as those found in gasoline and oil spills. When the microbes have completely digested these chemicals, they change them into water and harmless gases such as carbon dioxide," said the US-EPA in its "Citizen's Guide to Bio-remediation."

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said four companies already presented their products or technology on Sept. 9.

Bio-safety

These companies are Eco-Logix, with its liquid solution for degreasing and dispersant; Trevi's International Corp. with its liquid all-in-one plant derivative solution; Stanton Pharmacal, Inc., with its liquid solution named Ecowaste; and Allen Specialty with its powder and liquid solution known as ABR Hydrocarbon.

Their ETVP applications are now being processed by the DENR main office in Metro Manila, in close coordination with the Department of Science and Technology.

The Task Force Guimaras has created the subcommittee on bio-safety early this month, which is tasked with formulating systems and procedures in evaluating products and technologies for remediation.

The creation of the subcommittee, headed by Amador, resulted from a recommendation of Dr. Rafael D. Guerrero III, executive director of the Laguna-based Philippine Council for Aquatic and Marine Research and Development.

A panel of scientists from the academe, private sector and other agencies will evaluate the products, said the DENR statement.

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PCSO forms team in war on 'bookies'

LUCENA CITY—TO ELIMINATE the operation of illegal bookies riding on the popularity of the small town lottery, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office is forming STL Task Force to combat the rampant unauthorized collection of bets in areas where the government-sanctioned lottery operates.

Romy Quiñones, PCSO manager of special projects department, said the STL Task Force aims to segregate the legal lottery game from the illegal operation.

"Once and for all, we will eradicate the bookies and jueteng games that have been sabotaging the STL operations. These illegal numbers game should be stopped," Quiñones said in a phone interview.

He said the planned task force will be composed of operatives from the PCSO and the Philippine National Police.

STL collectors in this city have all threatened to stop soliciting bets because of fear following the arrest of 19 of their colleagues in Pagbilao town on Tuesday.

"We have been assured by the PCSO that the STL operation is legal. But why did the police still arrest our companions? What's the purpose of our IDs if these will not be honored?" one of the STL collectors said.

The bet collectors interviewed requested not to be identified in the story.

Confusion

They urged the PCSO and the police to end the confusion.

"We don't want to return to jueteng collection and again live the life of always running away from the police. Even if the STL commission is low compared to jueteng, we're ready to stick to it," the STL employee said.

"But we need assurance and protection from the government," said the collectors.

On Tuesday, 19 STL collectors and employees were arrested by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Anti-Illegal Gambling Special Operation Task Force based in Camp Crame in a surprise raid in nearby Pagbilao town on allegation that the suspects were engaged in "bookies and jueteng" operation.

Jailed

The suspects landed at the Quezon provincial jail and were charged with illegal gambling.

However, Quezon provincial prosecutor Dione Bustonera dismissed the charges and ordered the release of the detained STL workers.

"The evidence presented showed that they are really legitimate STL employees," Bustonera said.

Jose Gonzales, operation manager of Pirouette Corp.—the franchise holder to run small town lottery in Quezon, said their lawyers were now preparing to file the criminal charges against the police team.

"If the authorities really want to wage war against jueteng or bookies, why pick only Quezon? Why not Batangas, Cavite or Laguna? What is so special about Quezon that they spared the other provinces where jueteng is rampant?" Gonzales said.

Quezon police chief Senior Supt. Victorio Caragan Jr. declared Quezon to be jueteng-free.

"What we have in some areas are STL illegal bookies. But we're waging war against them," he said. • *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

₱3M-₱5M IN LOST INCOME DAILY

Guimaras plans alternative livelihood

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE PROVINCIAL government of Guimaras is finalizing plans outlining alternative livelihood projects for residents affected by the Aug. 11 Petron oil spill and who are dependent on the sea and its related environs for their livelihood.

The Provincial Economic Development Office said the plan for alternative livelihood projects is in its final assessment stage and will most likely be released this week.

"Generally, the plan focuses on inland livelihood and starts with food-for-work and food security programs," said Ruben Corpuz, provincial economic development officer.

Roughly the size of Singapore at 60,465 hectares, Guimaras, with its five towns, is also known as the "Mango Capital of the Philippines."

It has a population of 152,000 with 80,836 people living in coastal areas.

The provincial fisheries profile says Guimaras has 517 aquaculturists, 5,580 municipal fishermen, 538 commercial fish workers and 316 fish processors.

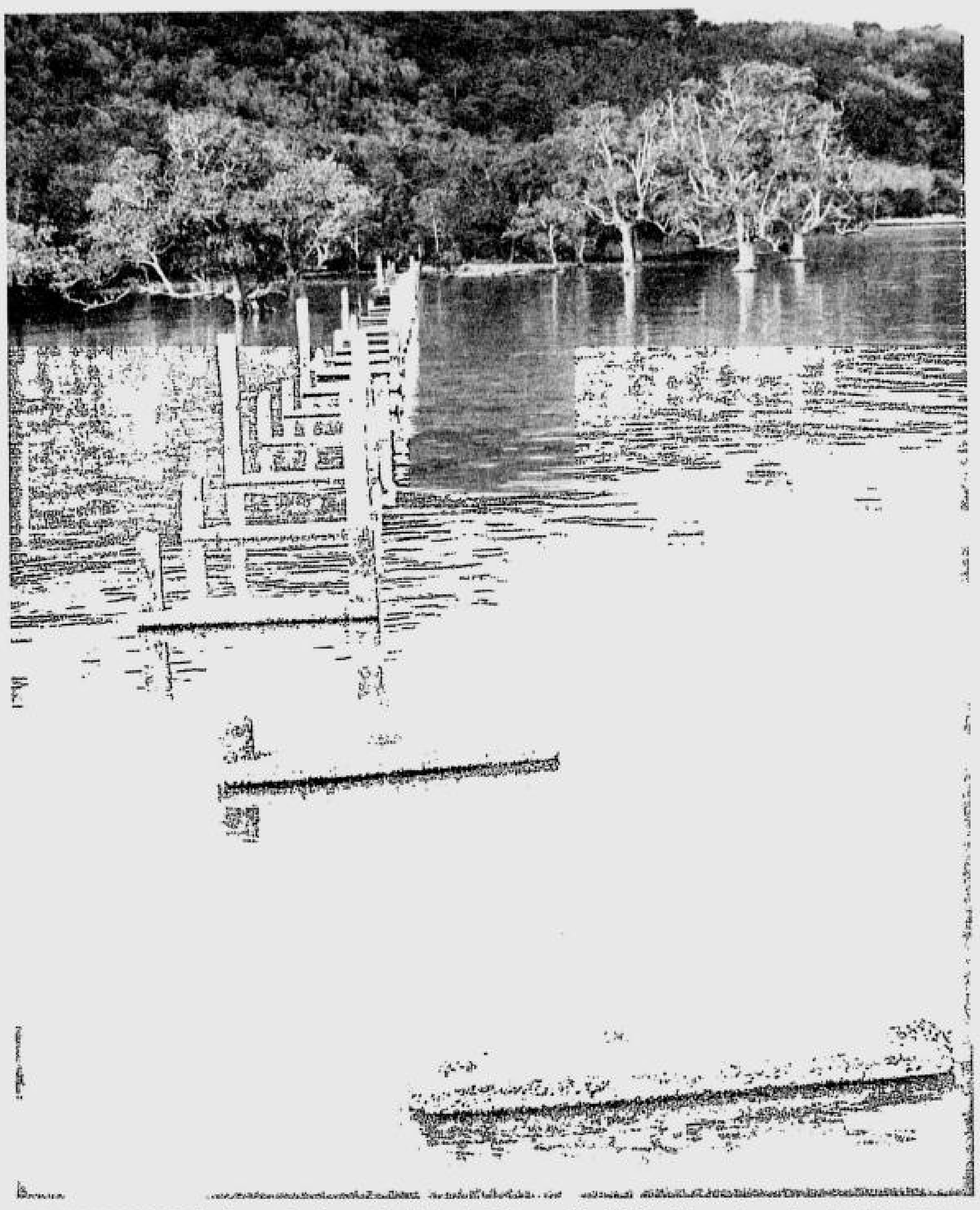
Fishing dependent

Residents directly dependent on fishing numbered 9,191, said the profile.

After MT Solar I, carrying 2.19 million liters of bunker fuel oil for Petron Corp. sank on bad weather in the Panay Gulf, the province's fishermen have been bereft of daily income estimated to reach P3 million to P5 million.

Corpuz said the alternative livelihood program being framed is agriculture-based.

He said that in a house-to-house survey in affected barangays, the fishermen have proposed livelihood projects like livestock, vegetable raising, coal preparation and *sari-sari* stores.



INAMPULUGAN Island was the first to be hit by the Petron oil spill. The blue water mixed with bunker fuel, turning it into a dirty hue of green and brown. Some dead sea turtles were seen floating along these steps.

ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

"We are also looking at the capability of women and children for long-term livelihood programs," said Corpuz in a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon.

Corpuz said the Association of Negros Producers and Guimaras province have discussed the possibilities of a tie-up wherein Guimarasnons will be sub-contracted for food processing and Christmas decor-making.

"We are checking the livelihood skills available in the community and the schemes good for them," said Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava in a television interview Tuesday evening.

"We need projects to assist our people restore their livelihoods. Two of our main economic drivers—tourism and fishery—have been rendered inutile. The environment that sustains us had been badly damaged," said Nava in a statement posted on the province's official website (www.projectsunrise.org).

Collaboration

Carlos Tan, Petron's health, safety and environment manager, said Petron has also come up with its own alternative livelihood programs for the affected villagers but it was waiting for the province's own with which the oil refiner will collaborate.

The island-province, created in 1992, is surrounded by rich fishing grounds, which include the Guimaras Strait, Iloilo Strait, Panay Gulf and the Visayan Sea.

It is also home to the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center's Research Station.

Project Sunrise said fishing is a major economic activity in 54 barangays, with at least 2,840 fishers who principally use non-motorized fishing craft and gear consisting of hook and line and gill nets. Seaweeds are also providing additional income to coastal families.

DOH chief says RP needs no outside help in fight vs dengue

DENGUE HEMORRHAGIC FEVER
of Wellness

NURSING students in Baguio prepare briefing charts and other materials on dengue.

TOOTS SOBERANO/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

BAGUIO CITY—HEALTH SECRETARY Francisco Duque III said the government does not need to secure funds from other countries to stop dengue.

Addressing a forum here on Thursday, Duque said the country can fight dengue with government funds and local medical institutions are adequate in managing the cases.

Malaria, rabies, tuberculosis and HIV-AIDS are among the diseases that took most of the funding from international institutions because of their global impact, he said.

Among the international funding institutions that support the campaign against these diseases are the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Program.

Duque said the government has allotted P50 million to combat dengue.

"The Philippine capacity to handle dengue on its own is probably adequate and does not necessitate any international funding support," he told reporters here.

He, however, stressed that dengue remains to be a public health threat. Cordillera, Metro Manila and Calabarzon are now severely affected by the disease, he said.

Duque said the WHO, through its representative, Dr. Jean Marc Olive, has collaborated with the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Services-Bangkok, which has agreed to provide the Philippines with faster polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results of dengue samples.

PCR is a confirmatory test for dengue where the results can be obtained in a few minutes.

But Duque noted that PCR can only best work during the early stage of dengue. It can detect new strains but it cannot manage or treat patients, he said.

The WHO is training medical doctors on dengue management, helping the DOH in implementing community mobilization against dengue, and funding the printing of dengue information materials.

Globally, 100 million dengue cases are reported every year. The Philippine cases are small compared with those of other countries, said Duque, who was here to monitor the dengue situation in the city.

In fact, dengue cases in the Philippines have decreased this year compared to last year, he said.

The DOH-Cordillera records show that Baguio City has the highest number of cases in the region with 67 or 56 percent of the total cases. Benguet ranks second with 305 cases.

The disease was reported in 120 of the city's 129 barangays. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Health execs worry about rise in Cordillera kids' obesity

By Donna Demetillo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—WHILE THE GOVERNMENT has focused on eliminating undernourishment among schoolchildren in the Cordillera, nutritionists here are also concerned about the increase in the number of overweight or obese children in the region.

Micaela Defiesta, regional coordinator of the National Nutrition Council, said obesity is an "impending problem" in the Cordillera.

"When we talk of malnutrition, it's not just undernourished but also now the overnourished. Obesity poses many health problems. It may cause hypertension, heart problems, and some types of cancer," she said.

Defiesta said Baguio City has the highest number of obese children at a rate of 2.47 percent in the preschool level alone. This, she said, translates to about two cases of obesity for every 100 children.

The city has 44,629 preschool children.

Defiesta said their records showed 406 cases of obesity but the number could be higher because not all children in the city were weighed.

She said while obesity is usually associated with more affluent communities, this condition is also present in poorer communities, such as in Kalinga and Apayao.

In 2005, she said Kalinga was second in the region with an obesity rate of 2.32 percent or about 708 obese children out of 33,262. Apayao came next with a rate of 2.13 percent or 147 out of 19,742 schoolchildren.

She said this classification is based on the International Reference Standard, which is used to chart normal weights according to age and height, regardless of the difference in body build among different races.

Defiesta said obesity is caused by changing eating patterns and preference for fast food products that give high fat and high calorie diets.

She also blamed inactivity as one of the culprits behind obesity.

"Children are also less active when there are television sets, computer games and Gameboy [a portable game console]. What you eat, you have to burn," she said.

But in the poorer areas where lifestyles remain simple and active, Defiesta said local nutrition committees must have more active roles.

She asked local governments to strengthen their local nutrition committees and identify nutrition officers to implement programs and policies to address nutrition-related problems.

In other countries like the United States, health experts also said more children are becoming obese.

In an AP report, the Institute of Medicine was quoted as saying that one-fifth of American children are likely to be obese by 2010, yet the federal government killed a promising program that portrayed exercise as cool.

Other efforts to turn the tide of childhood obesity are scattershot and lack sufficient money, the institute said Wednesday.

The institute found some encouraging signs that the threat to children's health is being taken seriously. Programs that target youngsters' growing waistlines are sprouting nationwide, it said.

But it is unknown which programs really help kids slim down, the institute said in calling for research to identify the best methods. *With an AP report*

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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HOMELESS AETAS ARNOLD ALMACEN / INQUIRER VISAYAS
A family of Aetas begs for alms from passersby at a pedestrian overpass in Iloilo City.

Cops arrest nursing board examiner

By Alcuin Papa

A FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF Nursing was arrested Thursday night at her home in Bagumbayan, Taguig City, by police for estafa and illegal recruitment.

Virginia Madeja, one of the examiners implicated in the alleged leakage in the 2006 nursing board exams, was arrested at around 8:30 p.m. by elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

But Madeja had to be brought to the Philippine National Police General Hospital after her blood pressure rose. She had complained of shortness of breath.

Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the CIDG National Capital Region unit, said arrest warrants were earlier issued by Manila Judge Guillermo Purganan against Madeja for estafa and large scale illegal recruitment.

The arrest warrants were based on a complaint filed by Sheiba Lynn Embuscado, Francia Gavino and Karen Abante, all registered nurses from the Bicol region.

The complainants said they were recruited to work as nurses abroad by Madeja who introduced herself as a manager of the Total Care Staffing Services. They said that Madeja duped them into paying $500 in 2001 for a job abroad.

Later, they realized there were actually no jobs available for them. They also said the company suddenly closed down.

Police managed to trace Madeja when her name surfaced in the recent nursing board exam scam. Madeja had appeared before Congress and the Senate during their respective investigations into the controversy.

Dolina said that a verification with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) revealed that the company was not registered to recruit nurses.

He said that as soon as Madeja's health improves, they will turn her over to Purganan's court, which will decide where she will be detained.

No bail was recommended for Madeja's temporary liberty, Dolina said.

AFP MODERNIZATION

Camp Aguinaldo for sale or lease

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS EYEING THE sale or lease of some of the country's military camps, including the Armed Forces general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo, to raise money for the military's equipment needs.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. said he has asked Congress to authorize him to sell or lease the properties in the proposed National Defense Act.

"We're open to the sale of Camp Aguinaldo," he told a Manila Overseas Press Club forum in Makati on Thursday night.

Cruz later told reporters the DND would consider a long-term lease of the 177-hectare Camp Aguinaldo—which sits on prime property in Quezon City and could easily be worth billions of pesos—but "only if there is a good proposal."

Defense and military official,s however, agreed that effecting the sale or lease of Camp Aguinaldo was a long shot.

According to Cruz, before Camp Aguinaldo can be leased out, government must find an alternative site, perhaps a "smaller but suitable compound near Metro Manila," to house the headquarters of the Department of National Defense, the Armed Forces and the armed services.

He said the possible sites for such a complex could be Lipa City in Batangas, Lucena City in Quezon or the former Clark Air Base in Angeles, Pampanga.

Some in the military and defense establishments, however, have expressed misgivings that the proceeds of such a sale might not go to the military and defense needs.

They cited what happened to the P7.8 billion that was raised from the sale of vast tracts of land in Makati and Taguig that formed part of the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio in the past decade. The money, supposed to be earmarked for the Armed Forces modernization program, had reverted to the government's general fund instead of being spent exclusively for the AFP.

CRUZ: Money will be used to buy new military equipment.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. also said the proposal to sell Camp Aguinaldo "still has a long way to go."

He said that of the country's 16 military camps, Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija, the headquarters of the Army's elite Special Operations Command, was a "candidate" for conversion into an agri-commercial complex.

"What we need now is not new camps. We need basic equipment for our squads," Esperon said.

The 15-year Philippine Defense Reform program that started last year requires an allotment of at least P10 billion each year for the basic acquisition of equipment, tanks, aircraft and sea vessels.

METRO
A plus
Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**
Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Atienza special assistant resigns

Faces murder charge

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MANILA MAYOR LITO ATIENZA'S special assistant, who allegedly shot to death on July 12 a jeepney driver in Tondo, has resigned.

Jose Noli Sugay was the suspect in the killing of Aries Luriz, 27, of Coral Street.

The Manila mayor's special assistant was formally charged with murder, two counts of homicide and illegal discharge of firearm before the Department of Justice on Monday.

Emmanuel Sison, Atienza's secretary, said Sugay submitted his resignation letter last Sept. 19.

Sison said, in the two-paragraph letter, Sugay thanked Atienza for allowing him to serve the city of Manila.

"I believe that was a good move on his part, considering the amount of negative publicity he has been getting," Sison said.

The city official added that no administrative cases were filed against Sugay because there were no complainants against him.

"He is no longer connected with City Hall as a consultant or adviser," Sison said.

Sugay, whose job at City Hall was to receive complaints against barangay officials, policemen and city employees, had worked at the office of the Mayor since 1999. He was one of 20 special assistants.

Sugay was identified by witnesses, including Luriz's mother, brother and 9-year-old nephew. The shooting allegedly stemmed from a petty parking dispute.

SUSPECTED ROBBERS
A soldier and a civilian were arrested by the Manila Police District Thursday for allegedly robbing money-changing shops in Ermita, Manila. The suspects were identified as Cpl Juanito Castillan, 29, of the Philippine Army in Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City; and Bradd Galea of Maharlika Village. RYAN LIM

WHAT'S INSIDE
- **Two barangays in Valenzuela** are dengue hotspots /A20
- **No treatment** without deposit? /A20
- **Suspected bogus food** products seized /A20

Stray bullet kills student

By Margaux C. Ortiz

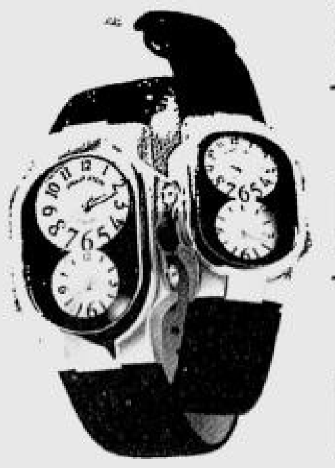
A MANILA POLICEMAN allegedly killed a nursing student when he fired warning shots at cell phone thieves in Sampaloc, Manila.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) filed homicide through reckless imprudence charges against PO3 Angelo Buzon of No. 171 Lavezares St., Binondo, Manila and assigned at the Manila Police District Sta. Cruz station..

Investigation conducted by the NBI Special Action Unit headed by Assistant Regional Director Vicente de Guzman III showed that the victim, Marie Grace Raymundo of No. 27 St. Peter St., St. Luis Francisco Subdivision, Barangay Veinte Reales, Valenzuela City, was waiting for a ride on S.H. Loyola Street, Sampaloc, Manila around 6:30 p.m. Aug. 10.

NBI special investigator Isaac Carpeso Jr. said Raymundo suddenly fell to the ground, as Buzon fired warning shots at three motorcycle-riders.

Raymundo died of a gunshot wound in the head at the Mary Chiles Hospital.



FEEL IT: The Calming, Beneficial TESLAR Effect

Several independent studies show that more people are discovering the wonderful, beneficial TESLAR effect when wearing Philip Stein TESLAR watches.

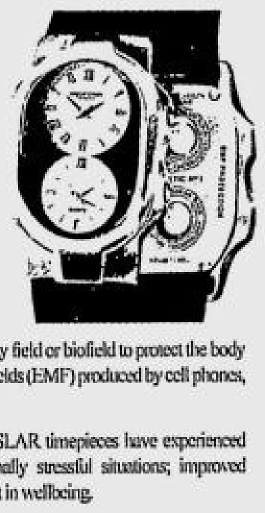
The TESLAR Effect may result in "improved cardiovascular fitness"
In 2005, a Heart-Rate Variability study (i.e., Stress Test) published in Explore! Magazine suggests TESLAR wearers may experience a more balanced Autonomic Nervous System related to cardiovascular fitness. Measurements suggest after wearing TESLAR, test subjects experienced improved general cardiovascular fitness related to (1) relaxing the "fight or flight" response; (2) increasing "relaxation response", and, (3) improving adaptability to external stress.

The TESLAR Effect may "help compensate for some of the negative impact of using a cell phone".
In June 2002, Alternative Medicine Magazine conducted independent product testing which demonstrated that TESLAR may have a positive effect on the human body in the presence of a cell phone. This test measured Heart Rate Variability (HRV), which can be a good measurement of a body's overall response to external stress. This product test concluded that the use of TESLAR "may in fact compensate for some of the negative impact of using a cell phone."

In 2003, Dr. Nyjon Eccles, MD, saw similar results on patients. Dr. Eccles' HRV tests showed that without TESLAR, the nervous system can become stressed when exposed to an energized cell phone. While wearing TESLAR, results suggest a "stabilizing effect" on or even "beneficial stimulation" of nervous system activity.

Immune cell production increases in presence of the TESLAR Effect in laboratory experiment
Dr. Glen Rein, while at Stanford Medical School, showed that in the presence of TESLAR there was, on average, 137% enhancement of human immune cell growth (in-vitro). A separate test demonstrated that nerve cells (in-vitro) could inhibit their uptake of noradrenalin (a depression-fighting process) by as much as 19.5% in the presence of TESLAR.

Children wearing TESLAR showed improved concentration
In 2001, a 30-day study of 11 children with hyperactivity and attention problems was completed in Henderson, KY. Students were evaluated by teachers prior to beginning the study and again at the conclusion. Overall, per teachers' observations, students showed improvements in their ability to concentrate, play respectfully with other children, relate to adults, and respect authority, among other indicators.



The TESLAR technology is a beneficial effect of the TESLAR chip, the revolutionary chip found inside Philip Stein TESLAR watches. It was engineered to strengthen the body's natural electromagnetic energy field or biofield to protect the body from the possible hazards of external extremely low electromagnetic fields (EMF) produced by cell phones, computers and other electronic devices.

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For more information, log on to www.philipsteinTESLAR.com

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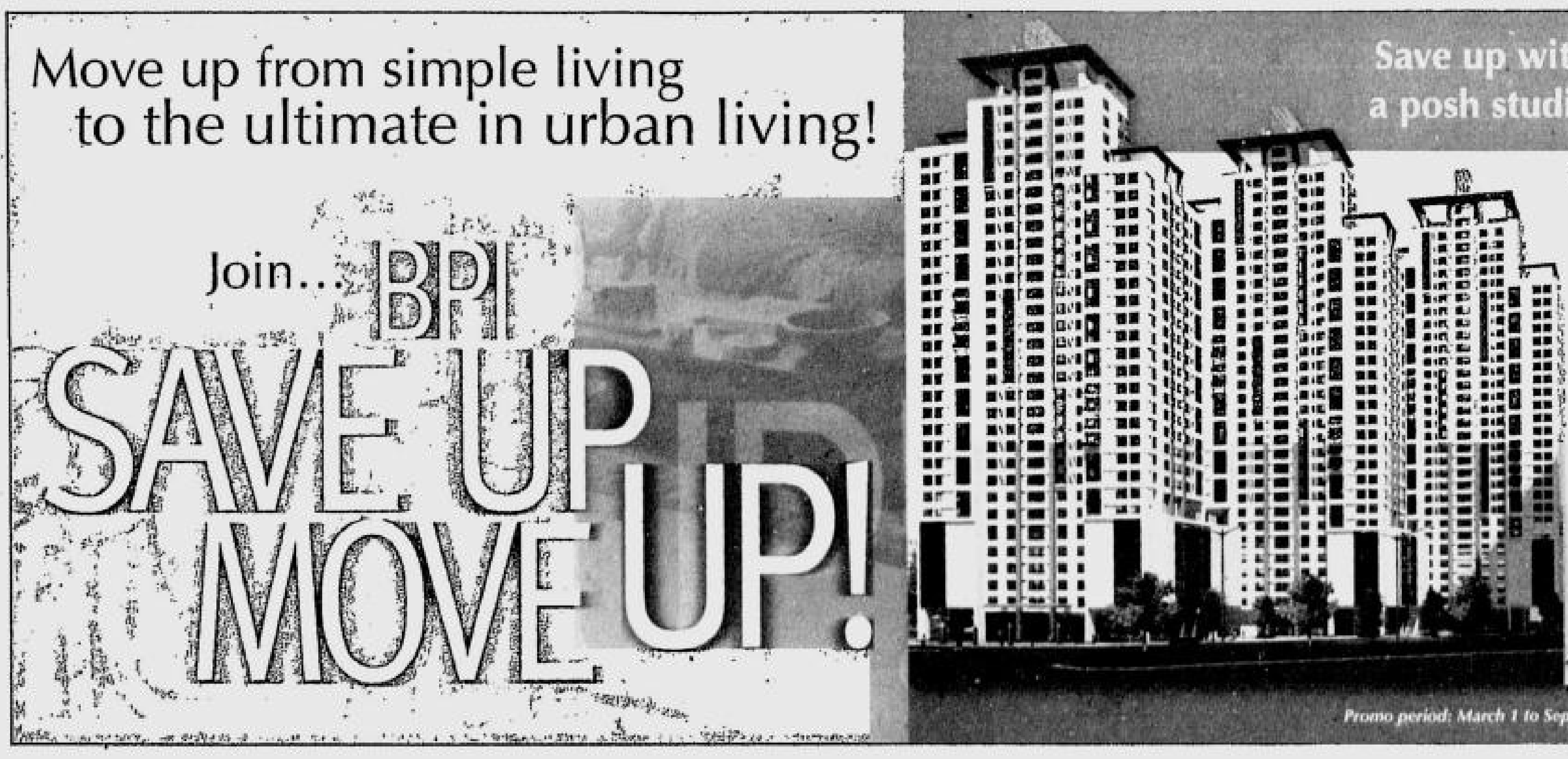

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Clinic allegedly refused treatment to dying child

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE MARIKINA CITY GOVERNMENT is investigating a clinic for allegedly refusing to treat an infant when her mother could not give a deposit.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando said the 6-month-old girl died while being treated in a hospital in Quezon City.

"I have ordered city hall officials to see if the clinic should be held liable for refusing to treat the girl and (to file) appropriate charges if (the report was) true," Fernando said.

She said the girl's mother filed a complaint with her office.

In her complaint, the mother alleged a staff member of the local clinic asked her if she could make a deposit before they could treat her daughter.

Unable to give a deposit, the doctors allegedly refused to (treat) her child.

The mother said when she brought her daughter to the clinic the girl had a high fever and abdominal pain.

The mother was brought the girl to St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City after the clinic refused to attend to her "but by then it (was) too late to save the child."

Fernando said there was no excuse for private clinics to deny treatment because the patient or her family could not make a deposit.

Thaksin and Ms Arroyo's similarities

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF Staff Hermogenes Esperon says a Thai-style coup d'etat against President Macapagal Arroyo is "remote."

As long as Esperon is the AFP chief there will be no coup. He is fiercely loyal to the President, having once been chief of the elite Presidential Security Group (PSG).

But what if Esperon is already retired?

* * *

As long as we don't amend that provision in the Constitution that says the AFP is the "protector of the people," the threat of a power grab by the military will be a Damocles sword over the head of any head of state in this country.

That provision was inserted during the post-Edsa I euphoria. Dictator Ferdinand Marcos was overthrown by a civilian-backed military coup at Edsa I.

That controversial provision should have been made transitory. It should have been stricken out of the Constitution after the situation went back to normal.

* * *

Ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and President Macapagal-Arroyo have several things in common.

Both are good in economics. Both have been accused of violating human rights. Both were accused of graft and corruption and election cheating.

Angry rallies calling for the resignations of both leaders have disturbed the peace of Bangkok and Manila.

Thaksin was accused of being arrogant and acting like a dictator. Ms Arroyo has been similarly accused.

The only difference between Thaksin and Ms Arroyo is that the ousted Thai premier doesn't have a Mike Arroyo.

* * *

Remember Jeff Quesada? He is probably the first quadriplegic (paralyzed in both arms and both feet) who has been convicted of rape.

He, along with his female cousin, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Jeff is now confined at the maximum security compound at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa and his cousin at the Women's Correctional in Mandaluyong.

Since Jeff is not a "normal" prisoner, his father Reynaldo sought my help in making his lifetime prison stay as normal as his fellow inmates. For example, he should be carried to the toilet when he answers the call of nature or when he takes a bath.

I called up Juanito Leopando, NBP superintendent, about Jeff's problem and he promised to solve it. He has assigned some inmates to take care of Jeff's personal needs.

My God, what kind of justice system do we have condemning a complete paralytic to a life in prison for a crime that it was impossible for him to commit!

Suspected bogus food products seized

SUSPECTED FAKE FOOD products were seized during a recent raid of a Metro Manila bargain market.

Operatives of the Crime Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police said Mai-Mai, Rose N Tess and Aling Dune retail establishments were found to be selling vinegar and soy sauce with suspected fake brands.

All three stores are located at the Mandaluyong Flea Market on Kalentong Street in Mandaluyong City.

Led by Col. Ricardo N. Sto. Domingo, the raiders were armed with a search warrant from Judge Reynaldo G. Ros of Maynila Regional Trial Court branch No. 33.

The alleged owners of the stores promised to cooperate and provide information, which the police hoped would lead them to the source of the goods.

The police said the manufacture, distribution and sale of counterfeit products violate the Intellectual Property Code (R.A. 8293) and could put public health and safety at risk.

HEALTH Secretary Francisco Duque visits dengue patients in Valenzuela General Hospital. The Valenzuela City Health office said there were 653 dengue cases admitted in different institutions in the city from Jan. 1 to Sept. 16, about 68 percent higher compared to the same period last year. JOAN BONDOC

Two Valenzuela barangays are dengue hotspots

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TWO BARANGAYS IN Valenzuela City were declared yesterday by the Department of Health (DOH) as dengue fever hotspots.

Earlier, the DOH declared as hotspots four Quezon City barangays that consistently recorded a rise in dengue cases in the past few weeks.

Dr. Enrique Tayag, director of the National Epidemiology Center, identified the Valenzuela barangays as Malinta and Marulas. Dengue cases were on the rise in the areas.

Five other barangays—Dalandanan, Maysan, Ugong, Gen. T. de Leon and Karuhatan—were considered dengue "clusters," as the areas registered two or more dengue cases, Tayag said.

"Hotspots are areas where there has been a continuous rise in dengue cases in the last four weeks," Tayag said in a press briefing yesterday in Makati City.

The DOH earlier declared Barangays Batasan Hills, Commonwealth, Tatalon and Payatas in Quezon City as hotspots. An epidemic was declared in a barangay in Morong, Rizal.

Tayag said 399 cases of dengue were reported in Valenzuela from January to Sept. 16. Of this, 128 were recorded in the last six weeks. Malinta had 20 cases during the period, while Marulas recorded 19.

DOH records also showed that 15,635 dengue cases were reported around the country as of Sept. 13, of which 5,223 were in Metro Manila. Of the 195 deaths, 53 were in the National Capital Region.

But Tayag said the current fatality rate of 1.3 percent was still below the alarming 2 percent of total cases.

He expected the number of cases to drop by September.

Tayag advised schools, communities and households to practice the 4S prevention measures: "search and destroy mosquito breeding sites, self-protection measures, seek early treatment, and say no to indiscriminate fogging."

He said, "You should practice all. It's 4S or nothing."

Among the known breeding sites of dengue-carrying mosquitoes are containers with stagnant water, old tires, gardening tools and other items left outside the house, and poorly maintained roof gutters.

Tayag advised people to have screens for doors and windows to keep mosquitoes and other insects out, use insect repellant, spray insecticides, and light mosquito coils.

He discouraged fogging as the procedure was futile in preventing dengue. He said while fogging could kill mosquitoes, it did not have any effect on mosquito eggs and larvae that could also be dengue carriers.

METROBRIEFS

Development of Muslim cemetery in Rizal begins

The Quezon City government has handed over the first installment of a P5 million grant to Rodriguez, Rizal for the establishment of an Islamic cemetery in Sitio Maislap, Barangay San Isidro. QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte handed to Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo a check for P1.2 million during a simple ceremony at the Bulwagang Amoranto in the Quezon City Hall Wednesday. Under a memorandum of agreement, Rodriguez and Quezon City shall share ownership of the cemetery, which received a P5 million grant from the Kingdom of Bahrain.

DJ Yap

UBFHAI president arrested for estafa

The president of the United BF Homes Association Inc. (UBFHAI) was allowed to post bail yesterday following his arrest for estafa. A warrant for Celso Reyes' arrest was issued by Judge Aida Estrella Macapagal of Parañaque RTC Branch 195. Reyes posted a P30,000 bail for his release. In a phone interview, Reyes said Rolando Navarro, a former UBFHAI board member, accused him of keeping almost P100,000 in security guard incentives in 2005.

Jocelyn R. Uy

Game goes from basketball to judicial court

A friendly "battle" on a basketball court may end up in a judicial court. Jarwin Navales, 25, a Citizen's Army Training instructor at Colegio de San Bartolome de Novaliches, charged Ricky Manalac, the school's head of security, with serious physical injuries and light threats. Navales alleged Manalac punched him on the face during a basketball game on campus at about 6 p.m. on Sept. 14. Navales was treated for scratches and bruises at the East Avenue Medical Center.

DJ Yap

Alpha Phi Beta national convention

The role of the University of the Philippines Alpha Phi Beta in nation-building and government reforms will be discussed at the fraternity's national convention October 20-22 at the Great Eastern Hotel, (Aberdeen Court) 1403 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. Convention theme is "Honoring the past, strengthening the present, shaping the future". For details, call 8924435 and 8131553, fax 8126026, e-mail: pmreyes@meridiantelekoms.net; or e-mail: annapeleo@yahoo.com; 9315001 loc. 7325, (direct line), 9316442.

US threatened to bomb Pakistan after 9/11

NEW YORK—THE UNITED STATES threatened to bomb Pakistan "back to the Stone Age" after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks unless it supported the war on terror, President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview released Thursday.

Musharraf, whose support for the US-led war in Afghanistan after the attacks was instrumental in the fall of the Taliban regime, said former deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage made the threat to Pakistan's head of intelligence.

"The intelligence director told me that (Armitage) said, 'Be prepared to be bombed. Be prepared to go back to the Stone Age'," Musharraf said in the interview with the "60 Minutes" investigative news program, according to selected excepts.

"I think it was a very rude remark," Musharraf says in the interview, due to be broadcast Sunday. "One has to think and take actions in the interests of the nation, and that's what I did." Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Pakistan abandoned its support for the Taliban, which was sheltering al-Qaida leaders, and became a frontline ally in the US-led "war on terror." Pakistan has since arrested several senior al-Qaida members including Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, the alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks.

The South Asian country has also deployed around 80,000 troops on the rugged border with Afghanistan to hunt pro-Taliban and al-Qaida linked militants who sneaked into the area after fleeing the US-led invasion of Afghanistan.

The White House declined to comment on Musharraf's comments, with a US official saying on condition of anonymity only that Pakistan had made "a strategic choice" to help after the Sept. 11 attacks.

MUSHARRAF AP

Armitage's alleged threat also demanded that Pakistan turn over border posts and bases for the US military to use in the war in Afghanistan, which ended with the Taliban regime's collapse in late 2001.

Other "ludicrous" demands required Pakistan to suppress domestic expressions of support for militant attacks on US targets, according to the CBS network, which produces "60 Minutes." "If somebody's expressing views, we cannot curb the expression of views," it quoted Musharraf as saying.

In the interview, Musharraf also reveals an embarrassing episode in which former CIA director George Tenet confronted him in 2003 with proof that the father of Pakistan's nuclear program was passing secrets to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

Abdul Qadeer Khan, held as hero in Pakistan for helping to make the country a nuclear power, admitted giving away nuclear secrets in a televised confession in February 2004, exposing a global black market in nuclear technology.

"He (Tenet) took his briefcase out, passed me some papers. It was a centrifuge design with all its numbers and signatures of Pakistan. It was the most embarrassing moment," Musharraf says.

It was only then, he says, that he realized that not only had blueprints been leaked, but that centrifuges themselves—a crucial element in enriching uranium to weapons grade—were being passed on, CBS said.

Musharraf denies that anyone in the government or military was aware of the leak.

He pardoned Khan the same month, but the ailing scientist has since lived under virtual house arrest in a leafy diplomatic sector in Islamabad and makes no public appearances. *AFP*

Bush forced to take cover at UN meeting

UNITED NATIONS—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush has had to grit his teeth and put up with one of the most anti-American UN General Assemblies in recent years.

The annual meeting of world leaders is never easy for the global superpower. But speeches by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, attacking Bush personally as "the devil," or his policies as "hegemonist," left a sulphurous atmosphere around the UN headquarters.

Even a supposed ally, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, let fire on the sidelines by daring to disagree with Bush over who whether US forces would be allowed to grab Osama bin Laden if the al-Qaida leader were found on Pakistani territory.

"It has been one of the most shrill displays of anti-Americanism in recent years," said one ambassador from the pro-US camp on the UN Security Council to describe the performances by Ahmadinejad and particularly Chavez.

Mercilessly lambasted

The Venezuelan president mercilessly lambasted the US leader with a speech 24 hours after Bush defended his attempts to bring democracy and liberty to the Middle East from the General Assembly stage.

"Yesterday the devil came here," said Chavez. "And it still smells of sulphur today." His act in crossing himself and looking up to pray to the almighty, brought some undiplomatic laughter and applause.

Chavez, whose country is a key US oil supplier, followed it up Thursday on tour of New York's Harlem district. While offering to send more heating oil to poor families in the United States, Chavez called Bush "an alcoholic" and "a sick man."

Bolivia's left wing president, Evo Morales, also made a colourful anti-US statement by holding up a coca leaf, which is banned in the United States but a staple in Bolivia, to back his protest against the US handling of its war on drugs.

Ahmadinejad was less personal but no less brutal in his judgment of Bush's administration.

In a scathing attack on the United States and Britain, Ahmadinejad slammed the "hegemonic powers" who imposed "their exclusionist policies on international decision-making mechanisms, including the Security Council."

While the United States leads the diplomatic charge for sanctions against Iran because of its nuclear program, the Tehran leader highlighted that some of his opponents "have abused nuclear technology for non-peaceful ends" and "some even have a bleak record of using them against humanity."

The US administration put a brave face on the attacks, hinting that it is used to being in the firing line.

"People will judge for themselves how seriously to take the comments and the people who make them," said State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said that Chavez and Ahmadinejad would only have a limited influence.

"It is fairly clear that they are both people who wish to allege that the US and UK are in some way acting as a particular force and are in some way causing problems to the rest of the international community," Beckett told reporters.

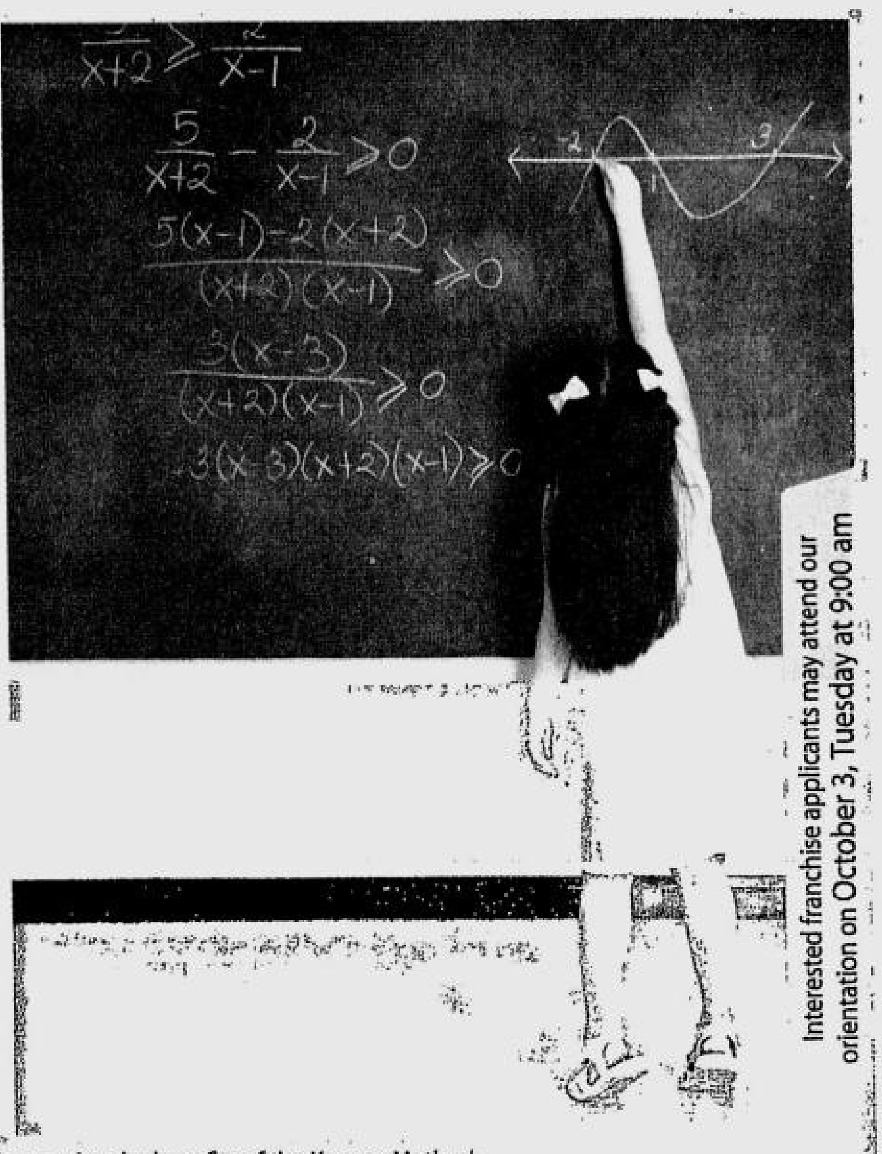
Hunger, disease

But what Chavez and Ahmadinejad said out loud about US policies and the need for reform of the United Nations, some other leaders uttered more quietly in their speeches to the assembly.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva spoke just before Bush on Tuesday.

Lula highlighted the hundreds of billions of dollars spent on the US military occupation of Iraq and declared "with much less we can change the sad reality of a great part of the world population" fighting hunger and disease.

Lula said the handling of Middle East conflicts, especially the Lebanon crisis, had exposed the "dangerous erosion of the UN's credibility and effectiveness." "Some leaders appear to think that Mr. Bush is already a lame duck and that hunting season is open," said one diplomat in New York. *AFP*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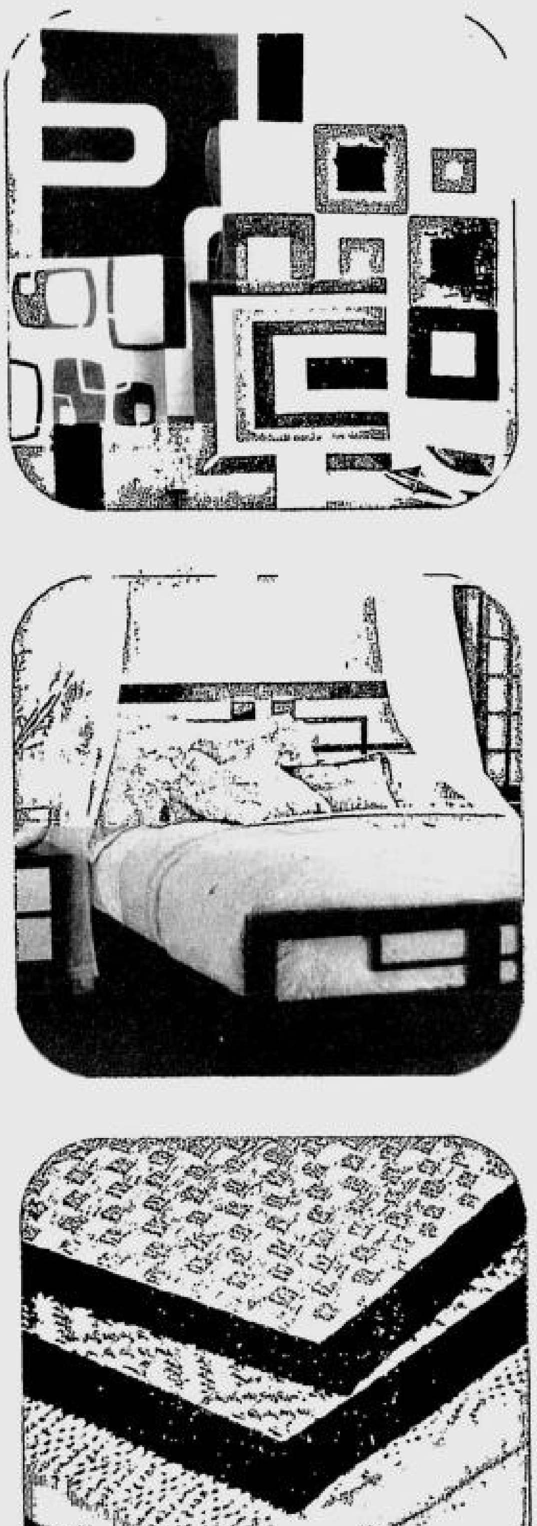
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3014, series of 2006

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Violence after 3 Christians executed

Outrage over death of 3 Indonesians who led an attack on Muslims

PALU, INDONESIA—THE EXECUTION OF THREE Christians in Indonesia on Friday brought thousands of protesters to the streets in the hometown of one of the dead, where they freed prisoners and burned an official's house, a witness said.

The three Christian militants were executed by an Indonesian police firing squad early on Friday amidst tight security in Palu, capital of Central Sulawesi province.

Fabianus Tibo, Marianus Riwu and Dominggus Silva had been sentenced to death in 2001, after being found guilty of leading a mob in an attack that killed more than 200 people at an Islamic boarding school during Muslim-Christian clashes in the province.

The convicts' priest, Jimmy Tumbelaka, said they had been officially declared dead at 3 a.m., although police officials said the actual execution was hours earlier.

"According to valid information I received they were shot in a sitting position with their hands tied. Two were blindfolded while Marianus Riwu refused to be blindfolded," Tumbelaka told Reuters.

The bodies of Tibo and Riwu were flown to their home town while Silva was buried in Palu.

In Silva's hometown of Atambua in West Timor, thousands of Christians protested in anger over the executions.

A local Red Cross official, Elli Mali, said the demonstrators broke into a jail and freed about 200 prisoners.

"The mob numbers in thousands. I ran into some of the prisoners and they said, 'I'm free!'," Mali told Reuters.

The protesters threw rocks and burned the local prosecutors' house, Indonesian media and police said.

Julito Borges, a policeman in Atambua, told Reuters two policemen were injured but the crowd had begun to disperse.

"The situation is cooling thanks to appeals by religious leaders and the swift action of security personnel," Deputy national police chief Adang Dorojatun told reporters in Jakarta.

In Palu, Bishop Joseph Suwatan, whose diocese oversees North and Central Sulawesi, urged the faithful in Palu to remain calm.

But in the Poso area of Central Sulawesi, where many Christian-Muslim clashes have occurred in recent years, including the incident for which the men were prosecuted, hundreds of protesters rallied against the executions and burned tires on the street, deputy police chief Minarta said.

The protesters threw rocks at antiriot policemen, injuring one officer, Minarta told Reuters in the early afternoon. "The protestors are dispersing now," he added.

Authorities turned down a request for the executed men's bodies to be laid out in the Santa Maria church in Palu, Tumbelaka said. *Reuters*

FABIANUS Tibo (left), Dominggus Silva and Marianus Riwu sit during their judicial review in Palu March 9. REUTERS

British tycoon pledges $3B to combat global warming

NEW YORK—BRITISH BILLIONAIRE RICHARD Branson on Thursday committed to spending all the profits from his airline and rail businesses—an estimated $3 billion over the next 10 years—on combating global warming.

The Virgin Group chair, whose company also includes music and mobile phone ventures, has already created Virgin Fuels, which will invest $400 million over three years in renewable energy initiatives as part of his pledge.

But profits from the Virgin Group's transport businesses, which make up nearly half the company, will also be spent on separate investments in biofuel research, development, production and distribution, and projects to tackle emissions through a planned Environmental Trust.

"We have to wean ourselves off our dependence on coal and fossil fuels. Our generation has the knowledge, it has the financial resources and, as importantly, it has the will power to do so," the flamboyant 56-year-old entrepreneur said.

Branson, who has a knighthood and is known as much for his daredevil stunts as his business, unveiled his plan at a news conference at the Clinton Global Initiative, a summit run by former US President Bill Clinton to combat world problems.

The second annual New York-based initiative, which ends on Friday, has brought together some of the world's richest and most influential people to brainstorm and commit money to fight world problems.

By Thursday night the total value of commitments made was more than $5.7 billion, surpassing last year's total of more than $2.5 billion.

"Richard's commitment is groundbreaking not only because of the price tag—which is phenomenal—but also because of the statement that he is making: clean energy is good for the world and it's good for business," Clinton said.

The pledge comes one day after the Bush administration said it was committing $3 billion to climate technology research and development. Climate experts and members of Congress criticized the administration's plan as long-delayed and inadequate.

Branson said he used to be skeptical about climate change, but reading a lot of books on the issue changed his mind.

His decision to commit billions of dollars to the cause came after former US vice president and long-time environmentalist Al Gore visited him in England a year ago. *Reuters*

RICHARD Branson, left, and Bill Clinton. AP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Jarencio battles former mentor in UAAP Finals /A24

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Lions survive, regain 'NC' title after 28 years

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA, SQUANDERING A 20-point lead, rode on three hideous homestretch turnovers by a hard-fighting Philippine Christian University to score an excruciating 68-67 win last night and take its first NCAA men's basketball championship in 28 years at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions, leading 57-37 late in the third quarter, almost choked in the homestretch as the Dolphins launched a daring fourth-quarter assault that brought the game down the wire.

"It was God's will," said a sobbing San Beda coach Koy Banal in the din of revelry. "When I prayed this morning, He told me to just do it. And we did it."

Not without testing their faith, of course.

Suddenly, the Dolphins were breathing down the Lions' necks with Jason Castro almost single-handedly carrying the fight before capping his fine form with an undergoal put-back off a Gabby Espinas miss.

That stab pushed PCU to within 65-67 with only 59 ticks remaining.

Nigerian Samuel Ekwe then hit just one of his four straight charities with 34 seconds left, for 68-65.

CHAMPIONS AGAIN: The long, long wait is over for the Red Lions and their supporters. RYAN LIM

That, however, proved enough cushion for the Red Lions, although Espinas put the Dolphins at their closest (67-68) with 24.8 left.

Actually, the Dolphins blew chances to reverse the outcome with three successive turnovers on two dribbling miscues and an errant pass in the homestretch.

Pong Escobal almost turned from hero to goat when he made a wayward pass to Ekwe in the next possession, 17.1 left. But PCU's Beau Belga bungled a hurried jumper with Youif Aljamal snagging the rebound. The King Lion hugged the ball as time ran out while the San Beda gallery erupted in fits of celebration for the Red Lions' 12th title overall.

COACH Koy Banal gets a victory ride from MVP-Rookie of the Year Samuel Ekwe. RYAN LIM

With some members of the 1978 champion squad on the sidelines, San Beda finished its glorious season with 16 wins in 18 games, including Game 1 of the Finals where the Red Lions threatened to make it a lopsided series with a 71-57 blowout win.

Among the stars of that San Beda champion team were Chito Loyzaga, Chuck Barreiro and Jayvee Yango.

PCU's guns turned hot early with Beau Belga, Gabby Espinas and Jason Castro firing from all angles as the Dolphins took the first quarter, 19-15.

But, unlike in the previous game, San Beda didn't allow things to get out of hand. Aljamal, Rogie Menor and Ekwe hit their marks, with the 6-foot-8 Rookie-MVP winner hitting all his first four free throws.

And just after the quarter gap, the Red Lions roared with a telling 17-6 run fueled by rousing three-pointers from Aljamal, Escobal and Alex Angeles to storm to a 32-24 advantage.

The big pro-San Beda crowd also got into the nerves of Belga and Espinas as the duo nearly lost their cool over the referees' call several times.

The scores:

SAN BEDA 68—Aljamal 23, Escobal 15, Angeles 8, Ekwe 7, Menor 5, Evangelista 4, Gamalinda 2, Maggay 2, Hermida 2, Tacson 0, Taganas 0.

PCU 67—Castro 25, David 10, Belga 9, Espinas 8, Navarro 7, Graham 4, Garrido 2, Amparado 2, Santos 0, Chien 0, Vidal 0, McCoy 0.

Quarters: 15-19, 36-30, 61-44, 68-67

Morales steps up training for Pacquiao

MORALES

THE DAY AFTER HIS FIGHT PRESS CONFERence in Los Angeles, Mexico's Erik Morales was promptly at the high-altitude Otomi Mountains in Temoaya, Mexico, to plunge into his toughest training for the Nov. 18 showdown with Manny Pacquiao.

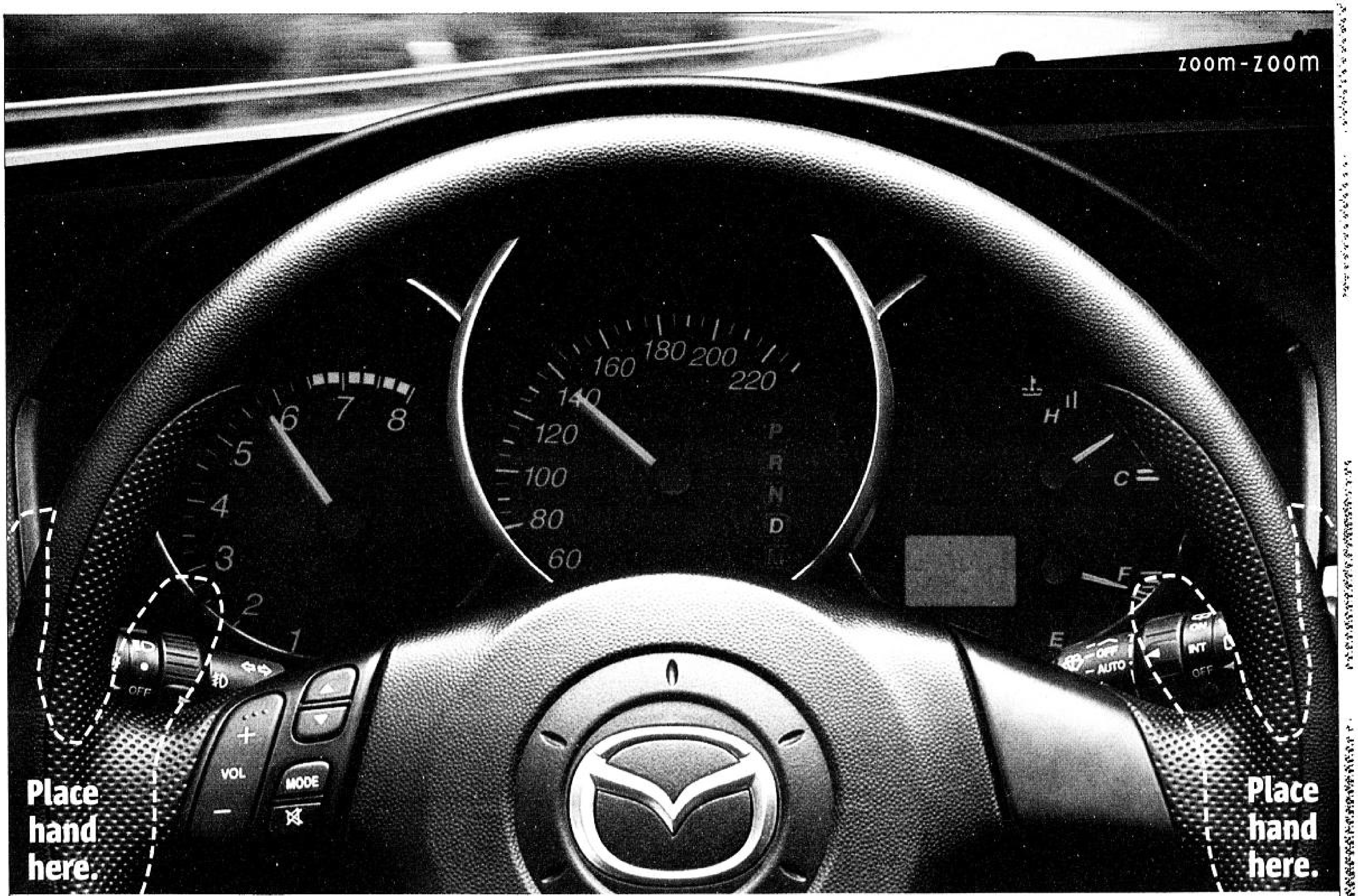
Morales arrived in the evening at the Otomi as he sustains his weight-control regimen at the Velocity Performance Center in California.

"This fight is very important in my career, and I must win this to again be on top of the boxing world," Morales said in his own boxing website.

The Tijuana fighter said he will continue the regimen he started 40 days ago in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao, who was visibly awed by Morales' lean physique in the press conference, has also started working out at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym amid talk of big promotional outfits wooing him.

The frontrunners to get Pacquiao's services include Oscar De la Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions and Bob Arum's Top Rank. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*



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BUSTAMANTE: Champ over Indon hope.

Django uses Bata cue stick to keep Bali title

FRANCISCO "DJANGO" BUSTAMANTE BElieves in lucky charms.

Using the cue stick that has brought success and fortune to buddy Efren "Bata" Reyes, Bustamante retained his title in the 2006 A Mild Bali International Open at the Sanur Beach Hotel in Bali, Indonesia, late Thursday.

The hometown crowd and familiarity with the venue of Muhammad Zulfikri proved no match for Bustamante's "magical" weapon as the Filipino carved out an 11-1 demolition right in the Indon's territory to pocket $15,000 (about P750,000) in top purse and appearance fee.

Bustamante bested another Indon, Widi Harsoyo, in the semifinals to arrange a titular showdown with Zulfikri, who won over former World Pool runner-up Chang Pei-wei of Chinese-Taipei.

In the quarterfinals, Bustamante clobbered Siauw Wieto, 9-7, while Zulfikri stopped surprise Filipino quarterfinalist, Panfilo Damuag, 9-7.

Zulfikri was also the tormentor of ex-World Pool titlist Chao Fong Pang in the last 32.

"I'm glad that he got back his winning form and the treatment of his doctors on his elbow seems successful," said Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Bustamante's benefactor.

Puyat bared that Bustamante used the cue stick of Reyes after the winner of the 2006 World Open 8-ball IPT shoot-out in Nevada, and the 2006 SMB Asian 9-ball Tour's Jakarta leg decided to skip the Bali event.

In last year's finals, Bustamante edged ex-World Pool champ Mika Immonen of Finland, 11-10.

The other Filipino finishers were Antonio Gabica (last 16), Ramil Gallego (last 32), Lee Van Corteza (last 32), Rodolfo Luat (last 32), Jeffrey De Luna (last 32) and Victor Arpilleda (last 64).

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

Jockey Samodio remains comatose

By Musong R. Castillo

ELPIDIO S. AGUILA, THE HARD-driving rider who piloted fabulous Skywalker to a Triple Crown sweep in 1983, remains in a coma, 12 days after suffering a horrific fall from Well Noted in a regular race at the Santa Ana Park.

Aguila, who as Jockey Samodio became one of the country's top riders in the late 1970s, figured in a three-horse mishap which also included the mounts of Patty Dilema and Ronaldo Baldonido.

Now approaching his 50s, Aguila suffered multiple spine fractures and will definitely be forced to retire, at the very least.

The speedball Well Noted, who was destroyed after a front leg gave way, threw Aguila off on the way down before rolling over the rider.

Meanwhile, Aguila's bills at the Makati Medical Center have been piling up and the president of the Philippine Jockeys' Association, Domingo Vacal, has asked for help for the fallen jockey, one of three figures who, together with Jesus C. Guce and Eduardo Domingo Jr., dominated action until the 1990s.

Domingo, who rode Sun Dancer to a similar TC sweep, retired in the early 1990s, still at the prime of his career, and has since served as commissioner of the governing Philippine Racing Commission.

Incidentally, Guce, also forced to retire, has been wheel chair-bound after falling and getting paralyzed from the neck down.

Jarencio battles former mentor in UAAP Finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

TWENTY YEARS AGO, ATENEO COACH Norman Black and Santo Tomas mentor Pido Jarencio were already stationed at the sidelines.

Black as San Miguel's head tactician in the pro league, Jarencio as his rookie bench warmer.

"*Hindi ako nagamit ni coach Norman* (Coach Norman didn't field me)," laughed Jarencio.

Not that Black was unimpressed.

"Coach Pido was quite young then," he explained. "And we had guys like Hector Calma, Samboy Lim, Elmer Reyes, to name a few, who were playing ahead of him at that time."

Tomorrow, Black and Jarencio will be back at the sidelines. This time, they'll be steering two opposing teams—the well-oiled Blue Eagles and the overachieving Tigers—in the UAAP Finals.

Jarencio, still showing the spunk he used to flash as a shooting guard, has refused to be intimidated by his former mentor in the best-of-three title showdown.

"I'm not nervous, I'm used to it," he said. "It's just like an ordinary game. What's important is that we're ready."

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

JARENCIO

Black, the multi-titled mentor who won a Grand Slam with San Miguel Beer in 1989, is also proud to see the transformation of his backup guard into a methodical coach.

"I'm happy for Pido; I watched his team the entire conference," he said. "Right in the middle of the year—particularly after we beat them in the first round—he started changing his philosophy towards the team.

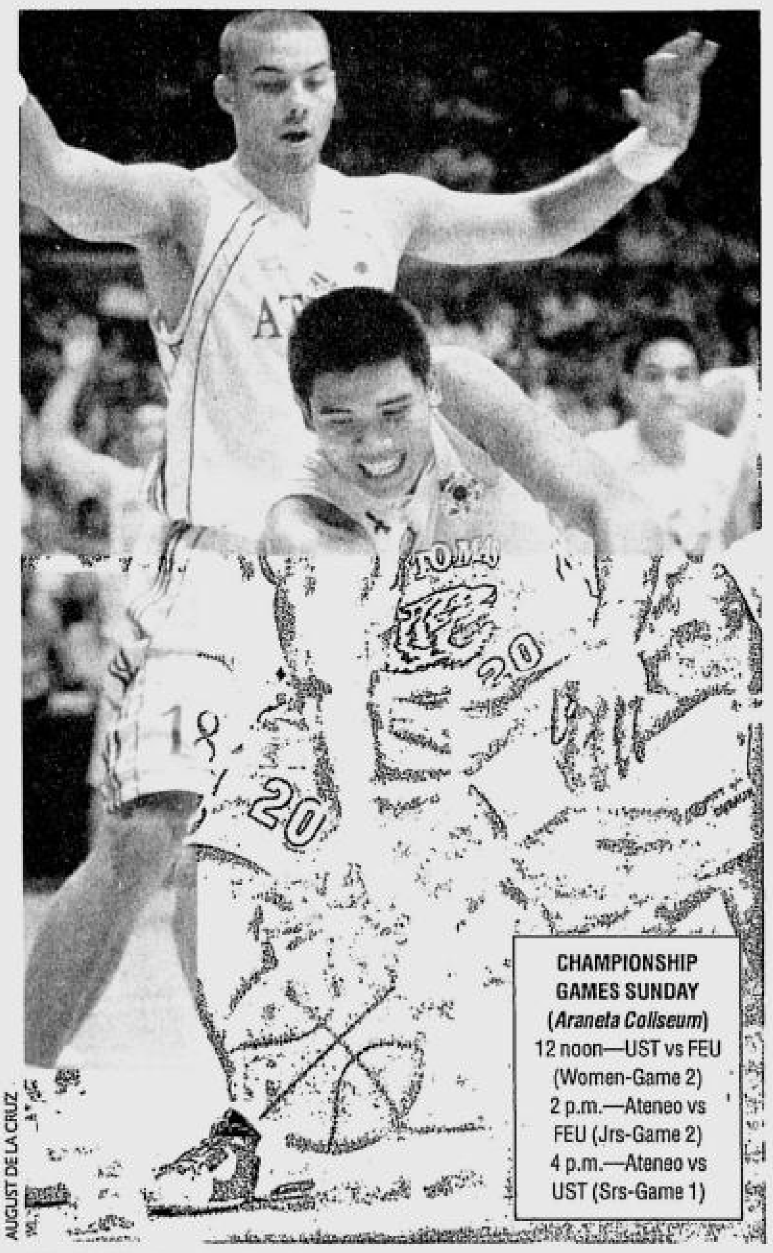
"From being a running team, they slowed it down a little bit and started concentrating on defense. Once they did that, they started to rise."

Thus, the Eagles are expecting a tough fight despite having ruled throughout the season.

"At this point, whatever advantage you may think you have doesn't really mean much if you can't do it on the basketball court," said Black.

Of course, no one knows it better than Black and Jarencio. They did it together on the court by winning the 1987 PBA Reinforced championship with San Miguel Beer.

By next week, though, only one of them will take home the crown.



AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

INTRIGUING FINALE: The Tigers go into Game One as underdogs.

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Another girl filing sex raps vs PBA coach

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

THAT BLIND ITEM I wrote some months ago about a PBA assistant coach being involved in cybersex should have served as a wake-up call.

Sorry, but it didn't.

First hour last Thursday, I got a call from a friend teasing me that I was responsible for the acts of lasciviousness charges filed recently against Coca-Cola assistant coach Boybits Victoria by an unnamed bar manager.

She joked that I started it all because I had written previously about Boybits' inclinations, although I didn't mention his name.

When I read the article, (which came out in practically all newspapers), I was a bit surprised to learn that it was an entirely different incident, with an entirely different girl involved.

The first girl, to whom he had sent a lurid sexual proposition through the Internet, was a model while the second was a bar manager, according to newspaper accounts.

* * *

Gosh, what a sticky, sticky situation.

Boybits has been suspended by the Coca-Cola team and, from the looks of it, his job may be on the line.

I'm sure no other guy would want to be in his shoes right now.

* * *

Here's more bad news for Boybits.

Yesterday, I got a text message from a good friend of the model on whom he had made advances.

This friend said the model is also filing charges against Boybits. Not for acts of lasciviousness this time, but sexual harassment.

* * *

Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) directors Lito Alvarez of Air21 and Wilson Young, Tanduay Distilleries Inc. president, are strongly batting for PLDT's Manny V. Pangilinan to be president of the newly formed national sports association.

"I hope he accepts the position. He's perfect for it. No one can make things happen the way he does. It won't be the same if he's not there," said Lito, who is also PBA treasurer.

MVP has repeatedly refused the post despite the clamor from just about everyone, although he seemed open to the group's chairmanship.

If you ask me, I feel that MVP may be persuaded to accept the presidency, but only if he holds the position of chair on a concurrent basis.

Why? Because I can't imagine him, as SBP president, reporting to the chair, whoever is elected from among the 25-member board of trustees.

* * *

Instead of the usual morning sickness, Kris Aquino—a.k.a. Mrs. James Yap—is suffering from night sickness.

Kris is several weeks pregnant and it looks it's not going to be an easy pregnancy for her.

Frankly, this is the first time I've heard of night sickness. I told Kris it might have been caused by jetlag or an inverted uterus.

Of course, I was only joking.

* * *

Kris said she has no idea why this is so.

"At daytime I'm super okay. But after dinnertime, bad *na*. I get really so *hilo* and nauseous."

Because of her delicate condition, Kris is forced to limit her activities to just taping.

She works all day, stretching her hours till dinnertime.

"By 10 pm I'm asleep *na*," she said.

FED GOLF LEAGUE

Sherwood catches Southwoods

STANDINGS (win-loss-draw-points).

Group I: Orchard 3-1-3-9, Forest Hills 3-0-3-9, Eastridge 2-2-3-8, Wack Wack 2-3-1-5, Riviera 0-4-2-2.

Group II: Sherwood Hills 5-0-1-12, Southwoods 4-2-1-12, Camp John Hay 2-2-1-5, Valley 2-4-0-4, Sta. Elena 0-5-1-1.

Group III: Northwoods 3-1-2-10, Alabang 3-2-2-9, Canlubang 2-1-3-7, CDC-Mimosa 2-4-0-4, 1-3-3-5, Tagaytay Highlands.

SHERWOOD HILLS BOOSTED ITS drive for one of the two automatic semifinal berths by repeating over sister team Manila Southwoods, 3-1, in the 2006 Federation Golf League matches in various courses over the weekend.

Sherwood, the only unbeaten team in the league, rode on victories by Junjun Plana/Boy Escano in greensomes, Tonton Asistio/Alex Santos in scramble and Jimmy Borromeo/Larry Tojino in aggregate scoring to improve their record to five wins and a draw in six games.

The win allowed Sherwood to tie Southwoods for league leadership with 12 points in Group II, far ahead of Camp John Hay, which downed Sta. Elena, 3-1, and raised its total to 5 points.

Orchard battled Forest Hills to a 2-2 draw at home and both teams remained tied for the lead in Group I with 9 points, one point up on Eastridge, which beat Wack Wack, 2.5-1.5.

Royal Northwoods salvaged a 2-2 draw with Tagaytay Highlands and remained on top of Group III.

Alabang's attempt to snatch the lead from Northwoods at home was foiled by Canlubang, which posted a 3-1 win on victories by Mari Hechanova/Monet LaO, Raoul Jorge/Tony Olives and Mulsy Regala/Gerry Silva.

Orchard got its two points from Nestor Sevilla/Jaye Escuadro and Rene Garovillo/Louie Garcia in greensome and aggregate, respectively. Forest Hills, meanwhile, leveled the score through Gary and Jerry Uy in high-low and Raffy Garcia/Anselmo Rodriguez in scramble.

Tito Eusebio/Ted Runes and Ferdie Aunzo/Eric del Rosario took the points in high-low and scramble while Junnel Roxas/Henry Lacuna forced a draw in greensomes for the Eastridge victory.

Rosales 9 strokes off South Korean

GERALD ROSALES SETTLED FOR A ONE-over-par 72 Friday to trail South Korea's Kang Jiman by nine shots halfway through the $700,000 Kolon-Hana Bank Korea Open at the par-71 Woo Jeong Hills Country Club.

Rosales, who opened with a three-under 67 Thursday, bogeyed two of the last four holes.

Kang fired an eight-under 63 for a two-day total of 130, one stroke in front of compatriot Kang Kyung-nam, who matched his brilliant round.

Kang Ji-man, 30, had an eagle and seven birdies against a lone bogey on his home course.

Co-overnight leader Yang Yong-eun, also of Korea, carded a 67 for third place on 132.

American left-hander Bubba Watson, the longest hitter on the US PGA Tour, surged on the leaderboard with a bogey-free 66, three off the pace in fourth, while Thaworn Wiratchant of Thailand got into the title mix with a 66 (135).

SPORTSWATCH

Davao's first shell court opens

DAVAO CITY—DAVAO'S FIRST SHELL COURTS OPENS TOday at the Ecoland Phase 1 Tennis Center with tennis patron and Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadato leading the ribbon-cutting rite. After seven months of construction, the P700,000 court will host a tournament among players from Ecoland Phase 1, Isulan Tennis Center of Sultan Kudarat and the Butuan City Tennis Club. Ecoland's past president Antonio Calma and incumbent Ram Magtoto oversaw the construction of the court, an addition to the center's two hard courts, which was built through contributions from Bobi Co, Vic Lumo, Boyet Lim of Toyota and club members. *Inquirer Mindanao*

Air21 Basketball School begins

THE FIRST AIR21 BASKETBALL SCHOOL UNWRAPS TOday at the Olivarez Gym in Parañaque. The camp is open to children and relatives of employees of Airfreight 2100, which owns the Air21 team in the PBA. Sponsored by Sunbolt and Toby's Sports, the one-day cage school starts at 8 a.m.

Las Piñas derby gets going

DERBY REGULARS FROM DIFFERENT COCKPITS CONverge at the Las Piñas Coliseum from 7 p.m. today as the Super 4-Stag Derby gets going with 76 matches on the roster. Fielding their battlecross stags are Preco Reyes, Paeng Arciaga and Jorge Fajardo of Daang Hari Coliseum, Ching Morales, Benjie Lim and Butchoy Olano of Pasay, Strike Revilla, Ted Macadagdag and Angel Tenedero of Cavite Coliseum, Johnny Elorde of Elorde Cockpit and Jessie Banas, Eric Carreon, Gerry Ramos, Jover Dilao, Yoyoy Dahonog and Cito Zamesa of LPC. A cash prize of P300,000 is at stake, said hosts Rudy Sayaman and coliseum manager Alex Tobias.

Final screening for Stag Festival

THE LAST THREE DAYS OF SCREENING FOR ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-stag derby will be held today, tomorrow and on Monday. The event, which stakes P1.5 million in cash prizes for an entry fee of P8,800, unfolds on Sept. 26, 28 and 30 with Roligon owner Rolly Ligon as host and Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone as sponsors. Stags with "Showdown Derby" wingbands (classified as Y and R) will be accepted. Meanwhile, the Diamante Brothers 5-Stag Derby comes next at the venue on Oct. 14, 16 and 18 with P1 million at stake for an entry fee of P7,700. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

60 matches at Sta. Ana today

SIXTY FIGHTS ARE ON TAP TODAY IN A "FASTEST WIN One-Cock Ulutan" starting at 11 a.m. at the Sta. Ana Cockpit on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City. Jimmy Olalia and Monching Lobres are hosts of the event which stakes a prize pot of P100,000. The win champion will receive P30,000; second, P20,000; third, P10,000; fourth, P8,000; fifth, P7,000 and sixth to 10th placers, P4,000. A special prize of P5,000 awaits the slowest champion. Hackfights are held at the venue every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, said pit manager Edwin Vittali. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475.

Tagaytay Spring Oil five foils debuting Tribu

TALISAY CITY, CEBU—TAGAYTAY SPRING OIL STEADied in the closing minutes to spoil the debut of Tribu Sugbu, 75-70, Thursday night in the 2006 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the jam-packed city gym here.

Ex-PBL players Danny Capobres and Nani Epondulan provided the big shots in the closing minutes to power the Tagaytay Spring squad of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and his executive veep, Mayor Bambol Tolentino, past the comebacking Cebuanos of businessmen Jonathan Guardo and Lito Gillamac Jr.

It was the third straight win for Tagaytay Spring in the 10-team tournament sponsored by Sulpico Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Nature's Spring, Molten, Holiday Plaza Hotel-Cebu and Prime Channel.

Capobres' basket at the 2:26 mark gave Tagaytay a 71-67 lead after rookie Jerome Gadiane answered with his trird triple, Epondulan knocked in a jumper and then Aldrin Morante sank two charities with 21 seconds left to seal the win over the Arthro/Skygo-backed Cebuanos.

Six-foot-five banger Rodel Mallari held his ground against "Baby Shaq" JR Quiñahan, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds to pace Tagaytay Spring.

The scores:

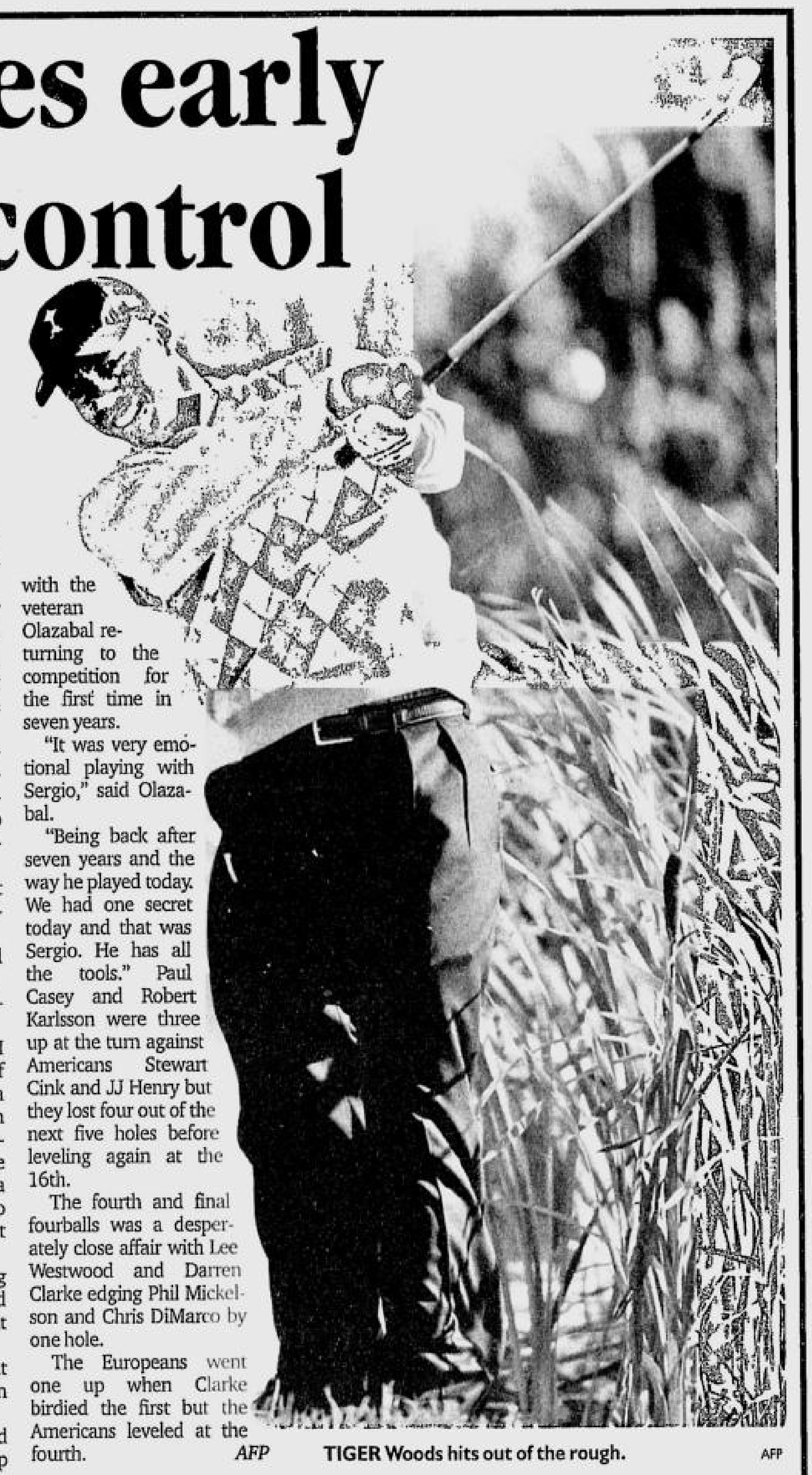
TAGAYTAY 75—Mallari 17, Capobres 14, Morante 11, Epondulan 8, Tajonera 8, Bamson 6, Guiyab 4, Reyes 3, Neo 2, Genido 2, Cuenca 0, Finullar 0.

TRIBU 70—Quinahan 16, Gadiano 15, Bucao 10, Co 8, Mercado 8, Sevilla 5, Ababon 4, Almacin 2, Yabut 2, De Guzman 0, Ceniza 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 38-33, 53-52, 75-70

Europe takes early Ryder Cup control

Woods first shot lands into water


TIGER Woods hits out of the rough. AFP

STRAFFAN, IRELAND—EUROPE LED THE UNITED STATES, 2.5-1.5, after the morning fourballs on the opening day of the 36th Ryder Cup at the K-Club here on Friday.

MONTGOMERIE

The cup holders won two and halved one of the four ties with the Americans winning one and halving one.

Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk put the first point on the scoreboard for the Americans by defeating Colin Montgomerie and Padraig Harrington one up in the lead-off match.

The top European pair were one up after seven holes, but the Americans pulled ahead by winning the next four.

An edgy-looking Woods struggled at first pulling his opening tee shot left into a water hazard and missing a couple of short putts, but partner Furyk was rock solid.

With Montgomerie and Harrington failing to spark, the Celtic couple found themselves in deep trouble when Woods finally started to settle down after a half dozen holes.

The European pair looked out of it but they cut the deficit to two at the par-three 14th and got within one hole thanks to a magnificent Harrington three-wood on to the green at the par-five 16th.

But they failed to get back on level terms on the final two holes allowing Woods to break a seven-match losing streak in Ryder Cup opening day fourballs and foursomes.

"We had ample opportunities but just could not hole any putts," bemoaned Montgomerie.

Woods admitted that Furyk had been the mainstay of their pairing.

"I was struggling," Woods admitted.

"But luckily Jim was solid and I found it toward the middle part of the round. It was nice to have a steady partner like Jim who was in on just about every hole." Top Europeans in the opening session were the Spanish pair of Sergio Garcia and Jose Maria Olazabal who thumped David Toms and Brett Wetterich three and two.

Garcia set the tone by birdieing the first to put Europe one up and Olazabal did likewise to make it two up at the turn.

The Americans got one back at the 10th, but the Iberian pair won the 14th and 15th to romp home.

It was the first time they had played together in the Ryder Cup with the veteran Olazabal returning to the competition for the first time in seven years.

"It was very emotional playing with Sergio," said Olazabal.

"Being back after seven years and the way he played today. We had one secret today and that was Sergio. He has all the tools." Paul Casey and Robert Karlsson were three up at the turn against Americans Stewart Cink and JJ Henry but they lost four out of the next five holes before leveling again at the 16th.

The fourth and final fourballs was a desperately close affair with Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke edging Phil Mickelson and Chris DiMarco by one hole.

The Europeans went one up when Clarke birdied the first but the Americans leveled at the fourth. *AFP*

RP golfers continue to struggle in Taiwan tilt

GENE BONDOC CARDED A FIVE-OVER PAR 77 at the Sunrise Golf Club and barely moved up to joint 14th after three rounds of play in the Acer International Amateur Golf Tournament in Taiwan yesterday.

First day leader Chen Chih Chiang of Taiwan regained the lead with compatriot Chien Yao Hung at 219 after a 76 as the gale-force winds blew away halfway leader Kris Wasylowiche of Canada, who skied with an 86 and slid to third with a 226. Hung shot a 77.

Bondoc, who birdied the last hole for a 38-39 card, pooled a 54-hole aggregate of 230, 11 strokes behind the joint Taiwanese leaders,

Another Filipino Miko Alejandro had 83-236 for a share of 29th place and Gene Bunye had 86-257 and made the final round cut at 47th.

The RP ladies, whose stint here is funded by ICTSI and sanctioned by the National Golf Association of the Philippines, continued to flounder with Lora Roberto shooting an 81 for a 241. Mia Piccio made an 85 for a 246 while Crystal Superal had a 92 for a 261.

Tseng Ya-ni primed up for a Taiwan sweep as she shot a 75 for a 221 to pace the ladies' side.

Ortiz breaks Red Sox mark with 52 homers

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS—DAVID ORTIZ set a Boston Red Sox record for home runs in a season here Thursday, belting his 51st and 52nd of 2006 in Boston's 6-0 victory over Minnesota.

With the Red Sox all but eliminated from the playoff race, much of the excitement around Fenway Park surrounds Ortiz, who entered the game tied with Jimmie Foxx for the franchise mark of 50 homers, set in 1938.

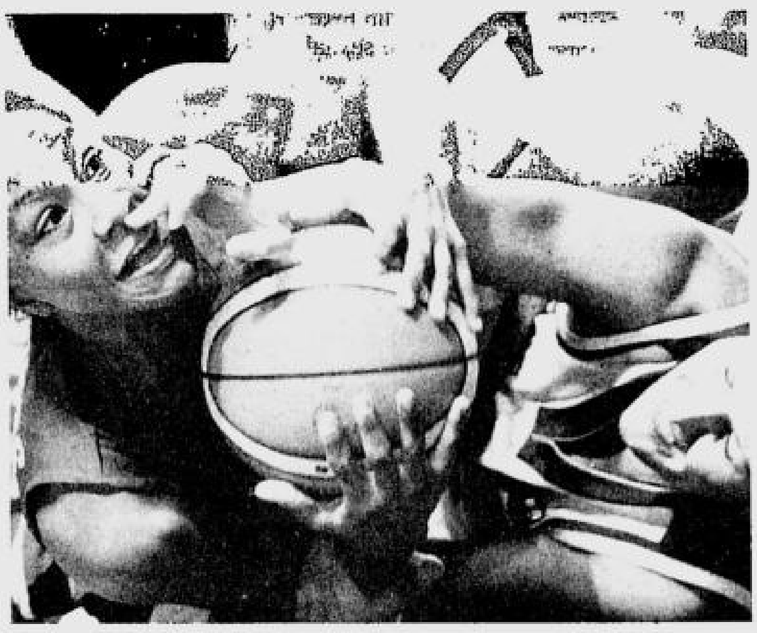
"I think wherever he did it would have been great, but here the fans have been able to show their appreciation," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I think it meant a lot to him."

Ortiz established the new mark when he crushed the first pitch he saw from Johan Santana into the right field seats with two outs in the bottom of the first inning.

"Big Papi" extended the record with a blast into the center field seats in the seventh inning against Matt Guerrier.

"I really thought it was good for our organization," Ortiz said. "I really thought it was good for the game of baseball, especially with all the stuff going on with people believing that there's a lot of players using things that you're not allowed to." Ortiz circled the bases and was greeted by teammates who emerged from the dugout. "Big Papi" then received a hug from Red Sox legend Johnny Pesky, who was Foxx's teammate for part of the 1942 season.

The first homer was Ortiz's 44th homer as a designated hitter, breaking the major league record that he set last year. *AFP*


RUSSIA'S Oxana Rakhmatulina (right) grapples for ball possession with US Tamika Catchings. AFP

Russia snaps US women cagers victory run at 51

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL— RUSSIA STUNNED the two-time defending champion United States, 75-68, in the semifinals of the women's world basketball championship on Thursday and will play Australia in the final.

The Americans' defeat ended their world championship winning streak, dating to the 1994 bronze-medal game, at 26, and snapped their string of victories in the Olympics and worlds at 51.

Russia had lost to the United States in the last two finals.

Australia, bronze medalists in the previous two worlds, advanced to its first final by beating host Brazil, 88-76.

Russia took advantage of poor shooting and sloppy ball-handling by the US to take a 58-38 lead after three quarters. The Americans closed to 73-68 with 45 seconds left, but after two missed free throws by Oxana Rakhmatulina with 30 seconds to go, the US took up almost all of the 24-second shot clock and Candace Parker missed a layup with 12 seconds left.

Ilona Korstin made two free throws with 10 seconds to go and No. 2-ranked Russia avenged a 90-80 loss to the top-ranked Americans in the first round.

Penelope Taylor scored 26 points and Belinda Snell added 22 for Australia. *AP*

FEU taekwondo jins shine; Aranzanso wins

JACOB BARROGA BEAT ARCHIE ANtonio of UST, 4-0, in the final of the welterweight division to lead Far Eastern University's three gold medal romp in the seniors division of the Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta in Makati late Thursday.

Barroga showed class and fighting savvy throughout their three-round duel, scoring on solid hits while effectively parrying Antonio's attacks to score the shutout win and bag the gold medal in the division.

Michael Angelo Realista nipped Carlo Manalo, 1-0, in the lightweight final for FEU's second gold while Romelle Roa edged Jhundreb Allas in an all FEU-finale to cop the gold medal in the bantamweight class of the centerpiece division of the event sponsored by Samsung.

La Salle captured two golds with Gerrielyn Aranzanso and Michael Alejandrino pulling off victories in the women's flyweight and men's middle/heavy divisions, respectively.

The 19-year-old Aranzanso, gold medalist in this year's All Women's Open and the TBB/TBS Championships, bested former winner Rachel Marcial in the final of the women's finweight division to bag the gold via a 5-3 victory, contrary to what was reported yesterday.

A foul-up in the transmission of results had Aranzanso, a national team mainstay, losing the match but the organizers announced that it was the De La Salle bet who actually won the gold medal for a successful title retention bid. Marcial, 24, settled for silver.

Aranzanso earlier disposed of Natalie Maramba, Sharmaine Laurilla and Caryn Pilongo to reach the final.

Two UST bets, Jurrie Bernardino and Esther Marie Singson, ruled the men's finweight and women's bantamweight classes, respectively. Other gold medal winners were Carlos Padilla of NTU Tigers (fly), Loreto Velasquez Jr. of San Beda (feather), Monica Dianelo of Angeles University (fly), Rani Ortega of UP (light), and Monica Angeles of Lyceum (welter).

Nat'l drag racing championship up

THE HUNT FOR THE TITLES AT STAKE COMES to a close as the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship Series stages the championship round today at the Drag Strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit. Some 100 drivers are expected to participate as BRC Drag Racing director Fil Gulfin urged competitors to come early. Focus will be on pacesetter Dave Jota of Blanche Racing and Jonathan Tiu of Team Ere as they dispute the Drag Racing Driver of the Year award.

Advocacy tilt opens today

A CAUSE-ORIENTED BASKETball tournament called Burlington-Philippine Advocacy League starts this afternoon with a six-game program at the San Andres gym in Manila.

Opening rites starting at 1 p.m precede action, with Ateneo Blue Eagles coach Norman Black and Presidential Adviser in Sports and Manila Sports Council Chair Ali Atienza as special guests.

Twelve teams—six teams each in the Pilipinas Kong Mahal Division and Bantay Bata Open Division—will see action in this tournament which has "We play, we care" as its slogan.

Commissioner is Fritz Gaston while Ted Perena is executive director.

Philippoussis vs Nalbandian highlights Davis Cup semis

BUENOS AIRES—AUSTRALIA'S Mark Philippoussis said he was ready for a dogfight after being drawn to face David Nalbandian in the opening rubber of their Davis Cup world group semifinal against Argentina.

Nalbandian himself remained brashly confident, just as he was earlier in the week when he predicted an easy win for the South Americans in the tie which starts on Friday.

Philippoussis will face a hostile 14,000-strong crowd and an unfavorable clay surface as he makes his Davis Cup return after a two-and-a-half-year absence.

PHILIPPOUSSIS

"I'm prepared for a dogfight and that is what it's going to be, nothing less than that," said Philippoussis after Thursday's draw.

Nalbandian believes he has the advantage over Philippoussis. "He's a great player but he has been injured, he's playing on a surface which is very difficult for him and under these conditions we have great chances of winning," he said.

Australia, beaten 4-1 at home by Argentina on grass at the quarterfinal stage last year, is seen as rank outsider in the clash against opponents who have not lost a home tie for eight years.

The presence in the Australian team of Lleyton Hewitt, who has had several angry clashes with Argentine players in the past, has added spice to the encounter.

Nalbandian added: "I believe in this team, I believe our players are good enough to beat any team and if it's 1-1 at the end of the first day, I'm not going to start trembling." *Reuters*

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SPORTS

Winslow bests Sy in Rd 12

Briton grabs series lead with third straight win as Peña fails to start

BOGOR, INDONESIA—BRITON JAMES Winslow ruled Round 12 over Filipino Tyson Sy for his third straight victory even as another Filipino, Dado Peña, remained confined to the sidelines Friday in the Asian Formula Three series at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Winslow, of JA Motorsport, cruised to his third consecutive and fourth overall victory of the season, ahead of Speedtech Asia lead driver Sy and Aran Racing's Moreno Soeprapto of Indonesia.

As a result, Winslow seized the overall lead from Irishman Ali Jackson who failed to finish after a collision with Soeprapto in the seventh lap of the 12-lap race.

Winslow, who also won Thursday afternoon's Round 11 in the rain, improved to 167 points to Jackson's 157 and Sy's 142.

"I think I'm kind of unreachable so far," said Winslow. "The car is running very, very good. But you can never relax, because if you do relax, others do improve and you'll have problems."

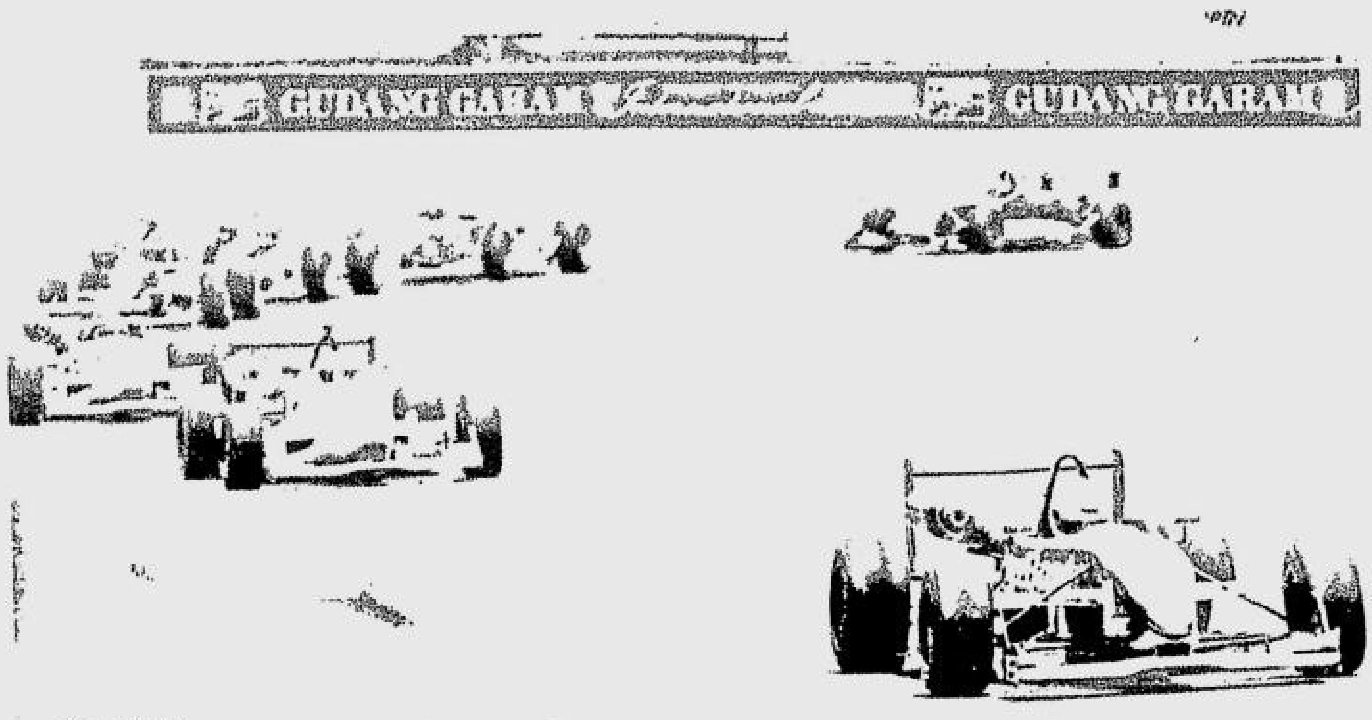
Jackson finished second in Round 11, with Sy taking the last podium spot, an improvement on his fourth-place finish in Round 10.

Winslow felt that with his car's power and the mechanical troubles that continued to plague the rest of the field, he could complete a sweep of the six-race schedule.

"I think I can, unless they (others) improve a lot," said the Briton, who raced against Formula One drivers Kimi Raikkonen of McLaren and Jenson Button of Honda in Formula Ford races years ago in Britain.

"I also have to improve. I can't enjoy the wins as much as I want to. I'll always have to think about the next races."

Peña, lead driver of Team Goddard, crashed his Dallara '04 in qualifying last Thursday and his pit crew, despite working deep into the night, failed to get the car ready by Friday morning. Round 13 was set later in the afternoon.



BRITAIN'S James Winslow (l) shows the way for the Philippines' Tyson Sy and the rest of the pack in the second lap.

Asian Formula Three Series

Round 12 results
(Sentul International Circuit)

1. J. Winslow	(ENG)	13:08.482
2. T. Sy	(PHI)	13:14.998
3. M. Soeprapto	(INA)	13:19.749
4. D. Battistini	(ENG)	13:25.143
5. R. Danindro	(INA)	13:26.958

The team is hoping to get the 19-year-old Peña's car ready in time for Rounds 14 and 15 on Saturday.

While Peña watched from behind the pit wall, Sy remained the top Filipino driver in the series after finishing second in Round 12 despite driving a 2001 car.

Because he had used the same car in the qualifying session, Sy will have to use it throughout the week. Mechanics continue to diagnose what's wrong with his rebuilt Dallara 2004, the car he wrecked in a crash in China.

Sy would not play down his chances in the remaining races in Sentul but said challenging Winslow for the top podium spot in an older car would be very difficult.

"*Sa tingin ko, puwede pa* (I think there's still a chance)," said Sy. "*May magagawa pa sa sasakyan at puwede pang idikit. Pero mamayang hapon, hindi pa siguro, malabo pa* (The car can still be fixed and it can compete, but not this afternoon)."

Jackson was dejected after he and Soeprapto, who had been attacking him from Round 10, touched cars in the fifth lap, taking the Irish teener out of the race.

The car's front wing was damaged as well as its front wheels, and it stalled in the middle of the track, delaying the race for some time.

"It wasn't too bad," said Jackson. "The mechanics are working on it and we'll be fit in time for the later races."

Winslow was to start on pole for Race 13 with Sy joining him in the front row. Soeprapto starts third with Jackson in fourth spot.

Overweight Amonsot stripped of WBO title

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

TAGBILARAN CITY—WORLD BOXING Organization (WBO) Asia-Pacific super-featherweight champion Czar Amonsot yesterday lost his title without taking a single punch after he failed to make the 130-lb. limit for tonight's 12-round grudge fight at the Island City Mall carpark here.

Amonsot, checking in at a bloated 135 lbs., refused to get rid of the extra poundage, while Indonesian Simson Butar-Butar, aching for a repeat win over the local boy, came in at 128 lbs. in the weigh-in supervised by WBO vice president for Asia Pacific Leon Panoncillo Jr. and the Games and Amusement Board's Rolando Mendoza.

The fight proceeds but, should Amonsot (17-1-1, 10 KOs) prevail, the title will remain vacant; the crown will be awarded to Butar-Butar (14-5-1, 10 KOs) should he again beat the Filipino.

Butar-Butar scored a controversial win over Amonsot in their first meeting last year.

The fight's referee is world-renowned Bruce McTavish of New Zealand, while the judges are Jonathan Davis, Salven Lagumbay and Teddy Alivio.

In the chief support, undefeated AJ Banal takes on Thai Sing Carryboy in 10 rounds.

The rest of the card: Glen Masicampo vs Melvin Ayudtud; Arnel Tadena vs Allan Dugang; Joseph Omanz vs Richard Cablay; Leon Maratas vs Markyll Taroja; Ricky Sismundo vs Frank Albia.

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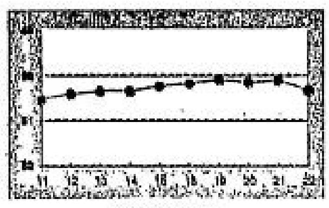

SEPTEMBER

GOLD: $580.60-581.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 21, 2006

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P50.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 22, 2006

¥116.36 = $1

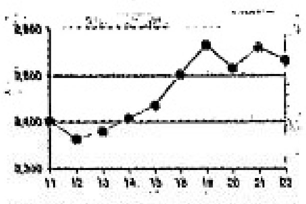
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 22, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall as investors lock in gains

SHARES SLIPPED YESTERDAY AS INvestors locked in previous sessions' gains.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 25.56 points, or 1 percent, to 2,531.65, after rising 1.8 percent Thursday. The index rose 4 percent since last week.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

"The market is undergoing a healthy consolidation in preparation for the next run-up, given that things are

SHARES/ B2

Economy much stronger now to withstand external turbulence

By Michelle V. Remo

ECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY ROMULO NERI has downplayed fears that the political turbulence in Thailand would trigger another Asian crisis, stressing that the current economic climate has made the region more capable of weathering external disturbances than it used to in the late 1990s.

Neri, who is also the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, also allayed concerns on the possible effects of Thailand's situation on the financial market in the Philippines. He said that macroeconomic fundamentals allowed the Philippines to avert a crisis.

"The slight drop in the peso and other emerging market currencies on Sept. 20 is basically a knee-jerk reaction to the coup in Thailand. The images of tanks on CNN were dramatic, but for the Philippine economy, it was just another day at the office," Neri said.

The peso nearly breached the 50-to-a-dollar mark and closed at 50.12 last Tuesday following the government's announcement of a P14.3-billion budget surplus in August. The local currency, however, slid a few centavos on news of a military takeover in Thailand that ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

But Neri said the uncertainty caused by the political turmoil in Thailand was limited and has already vanished following the move of the King of Thailand to endorse the new new leadership. He opined that the Thai economy would not hurt from the military takeover, noting that the nation has had 17 coups since the end of World War II. The Thais have returned to work just 36 hours after the coup, he added.

"A mini-Asian crisis is out of the picture," he stressed.

The onset of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s had largely to do with Thailand's economic problem, particularly the resulting depletion of its foreign exchange reserves as a

GOV'T/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE
▨ Vitarich debt relief plea granted /B2
▨ Higher-than-expected BOP seen/B3
▨ Teves bucks bill on state-run credit schemes /B8

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Vitarich debt relief plea granted

Malolos court sets Nov. 8 hearing of rehabilitation petition

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MALOlos, in Bulacan, has granted poultry and feeds company Vitarich Corp. temporary debt relief as it reviews the company's petition for rehabilitation.

In a stay order issued on Sept. 19 and disclosed yesterday by Vitarich to the Philippine Stock Exchange, judge Danilo Manalastas suspended the enforcement of all claims against Vitarich, "whether for money or otherwise."

Manalastas has also prohibited the company from selling, transferring or encumbering its properties and paying its liabilities as of the filing of the petition last Sept. 15.

The court has appointed Eduardo Rondain as rehabilitation receiver. Vitarich officials said Rondain is involved in financial advisory work.

The court has set for Nov. 8 the first hearing on Vitarich's application for rehabilitation.

The court also ordered all creditors and interested parties to file their comments or opposition to the petition not later than 10 days before the date of the initial hearing.

Vitarich is looking at two strategies to pay some P3.2 billion in bank loans.

Vitarich said in its rehabilitation program submitted to the PSE that its first strategy involves the restructuring of its debt.

The plan assumes that interest rates will be reduced from about 9 percent to 1-4 percent and the repayment period will be extended from 12 to 15 years.

The second strategy, on the other hand, involves the conversion of half of the debt into "receiver's capital notes."

These notes will give its holders common share-like benefits, such as a share in the profits of the company, but without the right to vote.

Vitarich filed its petition for debt relief with the regional trial court of Malolos, Bulacan, where its facilities are based.

It cited financial constraints stemming from the Asian currency crisis of 1998 and the aviation flu outbreak that slashed sales of chicken.

Global Steel eyes certification to tap local auto industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST STEEL MILL on Friday said it had taken steps to secure world-class certification on production standards in an effort to meet the supply demands of the local automotive industry.

Global Steel Philippines Inc. officials said in a statement that the company was applying for the technical certification known as ISO/TS 16949:2002, which would be the first for a steel manufacturer in the country.

"This initiative is in line with our organizational strategy and (we are) receiving advice from independent consultants on how best to achieve this certification," GSPI said.

"At present the company is in the initial phase of setting up quality management system standards specific to the automotive industry," it added.

"This requires large-scale, systematic documentation compliance and readiness review."

The firm explained that an immediate readiness program review would take at least a year, after which it would apply for a certification audit.

GSPI said some of the benefits of undertaking the ISO/TS 16949 certification included the potential to tap the high-end automotive market in the Philippines and export opportunity to Asian and Southeast Asian countries.

It will also allow the company to maintain world-class process quality; have a common quality system approach in supplier development; reduce the need for second-party audit, and have a common language to improve understanding of quality requirements.

The ISO/TS 16949 certification standard was developed jointly by the International Automotive Task Force (IATF) and the national trade associations of America, Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, France and Japan in cooperation with the International Organization for Standards (ISO).

The IATF consists of an international group of automotive manufacturers including Daimler Chrysler AG, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, BMW group and Volkswagen while the Japan Automotive Manufacturers Associations also took part.

Yesterday's announcement came in the wake of a previous statement that said GSPI was wrapping up supply talks with possible overseas buyers.

GSP chief operating officer BS Mohnani had said the company was in talks with companies operating in the United States and Europe who are interested in buying hot-rolled coils from the Philippines.

HRCs are the inputs for cold-rolled coils (CRCs) used in making industrial goods such as automobile components, precision tubes and consumer durables.

The company's plant in Iligan City can turn out up to 1.2 million tons of HRCs a year.

In March, GSPI announced it achieved "full commercial operation" as it had started selling HRCs, which officials said was a move toward full integration of the local steel industry.

GSPI then said the achievement meant that the country could take the first steps toward self-sufficiency in steel products and even become an exporter to markets in the region.

Estimated total imports of HRCs into the Philippines is between 200 and 300 million tons a year, which is expected to decline significantly when GSPI attains full production of its HRC line.

MWSS qualifies bidders for $100-M project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND Sewerage System (MWSS) has pre-qualified four bidders for its $100-million bulk water supply project.

Malaysian firm Ranhill Utilities Berhad and its local partner REC Foundation Specialists, Taiwanese Kintech Technology Company Inc., Sierra Madre Water Consortium that includes First Metro Investment Corp., and the New Kanlaon Consortium that includes Vinci Engineering of Italy and EEI Corp. have submitted bids for the 25-year 300 MLD (million liters a day) bulk water project.

The 300 MLD bulk water supply project, estimated to cost at least $100 million, will augment the water supply in the southern part of Metro Manila particularly in Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Las Pinas, Pasay and nearby towns of Bacoor and Imus, Cavite.

The project targets to benefit some 2.25 million residents and is set to be completed in 2009.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz told the INQUIRER that project proponents are required to put up $30 million in equity and should be majority owned by Filipinos.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on Oct. 20, 2006.

Meantime, the MWSS sought the assistance of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan to verify the credentials of a Taiwanese pre-qualified bidder.

The MWSS wrote Meco chairman and CEO Tomas I. Alcantara on Sept. 13, 2006 and said it would like to verify reports that Kintech may be involved in two failed projects for the Taiwan Water Supply Corp. in Kaoshiung.

"We would be forming a team to verify these reports and we would send them to Taiwan if necessary," Cruz said.

According to unconfirmed reports, Kintech built two major plants for the Taiwan Water Company, which have yet to pass performance test runs.

These are the Kaotan and Wongkong-yuan plants in Kaoshiung, Taiwan.

"The MWSS would like to know the status of these projects and if Kintech has really been given a 15-month extension to continue with the project despite an announced order of Taiwan Premier Frank Xhieh to rescind the contract of Kintech," Cruz said.

The two other pre-qualified bidders for the project, Sierra Madre Water Project consortium and the New Kanlaon Consortium, have also aired their concerns over Kintech's participation in the bidding.

Shell seen operating natural gas stations in '07

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER A NUMBER OF FALSE STARTS, THE Shell companies in the Philippines may finally start the commercial run of its mother-daughter compressed natural gas (CNG) stations by May 2007, said the Department of Energy.

"It's not formal, but Shell said they're looking at May 2007 as the latest date for the start of commercial operations," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told reporters. "It can even be earlier than that."

The start of commercial operations of the mother station in Tabangao, Batangas and the daughter station along the South Luzon Expressway in Biñan, Laguna had been shelved more than five times in the past due to technical issues.

Shell's last commitment was for commercial operations to start late last year.

Shell country chair Edgar Chua had since declined to identify a new target date.

Apart from safety issues in its mother station, Chua had earlier cited the absence of a local contractor for CNG refilling stations as another hindrance to the start of its CNG project.

He pointed out that as the country still did not have a CNG industry to speak of, there were no contractors for CNG-related projects.

"The availability of a local contractor is a big factor (in implementing such projects). We're now looking to get contractors from countries where there is already a established CNG industry, such as Malaysia and Thailand," he had said.

The delays in the operation of Shell's mother-daughter station had likewise pushed back the implementation of the government's Natural Gas Vehicle Program for Public Transport (NGVPPT), a seven-year pilot program that would peg the price of CNG at P14.52 a liter, less than half the price of diesel, for participating bus operators.

As of the first quarter, there were already 17 CNG-fed buses in the country, plus five sets of chassis and engine. These had already been allocated to accredited bus operators.

The delay in the start of the NGVPPT had resulted in these bus operators incurring a certain cost of money for these buses as they had already taken out loans to acquire the CNG-fed vehicles.

Chua said Shell was aware of this, so the company was now working out a way to help these bus operators cope with the cost of money.

"We're in discussions with the DOE for this. We'll be providing support to the bus operators in their financing," he said.

Gov't downplays impact . . .

From page B1

consequence of a tied exchange rate regime. Because the Thai baht had a pegged exchange rate then, the monetary authorities of Thailand were forced to use the country's reserves to counter the depreciating impact of bank failures.

But Neri said the fact that the Thai baht is now free floating, the odds of another crisis was unlikely. He noted that Thailand has accumulated a huge pile of foreign exchange due to the growing income of its tourism and car industries, and exports.

Thailand's gross international reserves currently stand at $57.5 billion. Neri said that other Southeast Asian countries have also learned from the Asian crisis and have strengthened their banking systems and beefed up their foreign exchange reserves.

With regard to the effects of the coup in Thailand on the Philippines, the Neda official said: "We are able to withstand global economic shocks because our fundamentals are much stronger now."

He noted that overseas Filipino workers have brought in $7 billion so far this year, a 15.8-percent increase over 2005. Exports also grew 21.8 percent, he said.

"Revenues from call centers are up by 60 percent. Foreign direct investments have doubled. Putting these all together, we have accumulated our own pile of $21.4 billion in gross international reserves, a historic high," Neri said.

He added Philippine banks were also stronger due to greater capitalization requirements. Smaller banks merged with the large. The banks are shedding the remains of the Asian crisis, as the ratio of non-performing loans continues to drop. The NPL ratio was 17.3 percent in 2001; it is down to just 7.2 percent as of June.

Shares . . .

From page B1

looking up for the country," said First Grade Holdings managing director Astro del Castillo.

He cited the favorable performance of the economy, which has prompted increased investor interest in the country.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, shedding 2.6 percent to close at P2,225, after rising 3.9 percent during the previous session. Among other active issues, Ayala Land fell 1.6 percent to P15, after rising 11 percent in the previous four sessions.

Metropolitan Bank dropped 2.4 percent to P40 on continued profit-taking.

SM Prime fell 1.2 percent to close at P8.30, after rising 1.2 percent Thursday.

Drawing bargain hunters were Bank of the Philippine Islands, up 1.7 percent at P58.50, and Philex Mining-A, higher by 1.3 percent at P3.80.

Decliners led gainers 57 to 34, while 65 stocks were unchanged. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 22, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38	38.5	38	38.5	229,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57	58.5	57	58.5	3,907,200
China Banking Corp.	695	695	690	690	5,760
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	600
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.44	17,550,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	74.5	75.5	74.5	75	866,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	41.5	40	40	1,809,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	33.5	33.5	27,700
Phil. Savings Bank	43	43	43	43	2,000
Philippine Trust Co.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	36,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	11,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	43.5	43.5	7,900
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	3.25	3.35	3.2	3.3	650,000
First Abacus Financial	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1590	1590	1590	1590	1,160
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2015	2035	2015	2035	1,960
Ivantage Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	2,950,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	49	49	49	49	205,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp	49	49.5	49	49	354,500
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	19	22,800
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	29.5	29	29	253,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	8.9	9	8.8	8.9	898,000
Petron Corp.	4.05	4.1	4	4.1	3,948,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	400,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.96	110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	88,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.5	22.75	149,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36	35.5	36	233,800
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	90,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	396,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	64,300
San Miguel Corp. B	74.5	75	74.5	74.5	281,300
Universal Robina Corp.	18.25	18.25	18	18.25	3,366,500
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	340,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	3,021,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	615,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	100,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	4.2	4.25	3.8	3.9	3,316,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.47	0.48	26,070,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.16	10,080,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	12,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	140,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	53,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	8,000,000
Ayala Corp.	460	462.5	455	460	533,330
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	955,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	1,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	115,000
Apc Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,650,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	36,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.94	0.95	0.92	0.93	550,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.3	3.35	3.2	3.2	311,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	75,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.28	1.3	5,507,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.75	743,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	620,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	52,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	118,000
Medco Holdings	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	150,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.26	1.26	2,472,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	5,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.185	0.21	0.185	0.2	41,610,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	10,000
Solid Group Inc	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	4,190,000
SM Investments Corp.	237	238	235	237	1,578,100
South China Resources Inc	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	230,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.18	1.38	1.18	1.34	1,356,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.11	2,800,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14.75	15	14.75	15	12,024,500
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	150,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	3,424,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.86	0.98	0.86	0.96	850,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	5,270,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.65	2.65	202,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	25,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	6,990,000
Elb Realty Developers Inc	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.22	470,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	8,630,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.9	1	0.9	0.95	800,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	0.0575	2,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.46	1.48	23,531,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	21,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	560,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	20,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,900,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.88	28,983,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.5	229,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	2,664,800
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.42	3,920,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	212,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	2,714,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.59	450,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,200,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	69,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.02	1.02	1	1	130,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	3,823,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1080	1080	1075	1075	10,340
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.6	4.6	1,035,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2225	2235	2205	2225	272,160
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.205	0.19	0.195	3,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.04	51,000
Ipvg Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	153,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	4,900,000
Philweb Corp.	0.029	0.029	0.028	0.028	133,300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	367,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	16.5	16.5	16	16.25	1,721,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	80,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	5.4	5.4	5.4	5.4	1,758,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	1.98	3,175,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	210,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	72,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	710,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	16,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	2.04	1.96	1.98	1,843,000
Paxys Inc.	10	10.25	10	10	700,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	6.7	6.9	6.4	6.5	10,435,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	6.8	7	6.5	6.5	7,207,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	81,700,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	449,000
Benguet Corp. A	10	11	10	10.75	192,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	29,800,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.29	17,590,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.023	602,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.027	0.026	0.027	411,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	379,000,000
Philex Mining Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.75	3.8	7,218,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.25	20.25	20	20	358,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	310,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.6	0.6	0.58	0.58	220,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	150,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	387,700,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.02	1.04	1	1.02	508,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.02	975,000
Pnoc Exploration Corp.-B	12	12	12	12	1,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	170,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	105	104	104	14,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	186,300

CURRENCIES

September 22, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.782105	1.000000	50.1060
Japan	Yen	0.006725	0.008598	0.4308
United Kingdom	Pound	1.488425	1.903100	95.3567
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100479	0.128472	6.4372
Switzerland	Franc	0.629259	0.804570	40.3138
Canada	Dollar	0.698932	0.893655	44.7775
Singapore	Dollar	0.495034	0.632951	31.7146
Australia	Dollar	0.591518	0.756315	37.8959
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.074661	2.652661	132.9142
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208562	0.266667	13.3616
Brunei	Dollar	0.493473	0.630955	31.6146
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020879	0.026696	1.3376
UAE	Dirham	0.212951	0.272279	13.6428
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.278600	64.0655
Argentina	Peso	0.252496	0.322841	16.1763
Brazil	Real	0.358681	0.458610	22.9791
Denmark	Kroner	0.134067	0.171418	8.5891
India	Rupee	0.017099	0.021863	1.0955
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.213108	0.272480	13.6529
Mexico	New Peso	0.070606	0.090277	4.5234
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517436	0.661594	33.1498
South Africa	Rand	0.104101	0.133103	6.6693
Korea	Won	0.000828	0.001059	0.0531
Sweden	Kroner	0.108136	0.138263	6.9278
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023764	0.030385	1.5225

Higher-than-expected BOP seen

BSP projects robust 2006 inflows, says it may exceed $2B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS reinforced the positive outlook on the country's external liquidity, saying that dollar inflows from exports and overseas remittances will continue to remain robust, and may fetch higher-than-expected balance of payments.

The BSP expects that the country's BOP position will likely exceed $2 billion in 2006, much better than the official forecast of $1.8 billion made earlier this year.

As of the end of the first half of the year, the country's BOP stood at a surplus of $2.04 billion, better than the $19.79 billion recorded during the same period last year.

BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said that the BOP is expected to exceed the original full-year forecast because of gains in the current account, including exports and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the domestic economy and the rest of the world.

Any transaction that gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or debt servicing is a deficit item in the BOP, while any transaction that results in receipt of foreign exchange such as borrowing, exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

Current account, which includes earnings from exports and remittances but nets out spending for imports and other outflows, hit a surplus of $2.9 billion in the first half, better than the full-year projection of only $2.3 billion.

Exports reached $22.3 billion in the first half; while OFW remittances reached $6.9 billion.

Exports of the Philippines has grown largely because of increasing global demand for electronics, the country's major export product.

OFW remittances are on the rise because of the increasing number of Filipinos being deployed abroad. Also, most Filipinos now working overseas have reported higher earnings this year.

Direct investments, which is recorded in the capital account of the BOP, is also expected to be relatively strong at $1.5 billion this year because of the expected improvement in investor sentiment largely due to the improving fiscal position of the government.

In the first half, however, the figure still stood at $900 million. The BSP expects investments inflows to increase further in the second half, with the government seen to exceed fiscal expectations.

STUDENTS of Project Pepe compete in an art contest.

'Pepe' does wonders for kids

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE CITIZEN

IN AN ECOSYSTEM, PLANTS and animals live together in harmony with their environment, their relationship bound by a common desire to survive.

What affects one affects everything else.

It is this kind of mutually beneficial relationship that Bato Balani Foundation, the corporate foundation of Diwa Learning Systems Inc. (DLSI), wants to foster through its Promoting Excellence in Philippine Education program or Project Pepe.

Academic ecosystem

Bato Balani believes that by creating an academic "ecosystem"—where public and private schools, the local government unit, teachers, students and their parents, .work together for the good of the students—the quality of education will be improved.

Project Pepe is now being put to the test in its pilot area of north Batangas, composed of the cities of Lipa and Tanauan and the municipalities of Malvar, Sto. Tomas, Mataas na Kahoy, Balete, Talisay and Laurel.

First Asia Institute of Technology and Humanities in Tanauan City was chosen as the hub university with 44 schools within the area named as partner-beneficiaries of the program.

Project Pepe

As the hub school, First Asia must provide facilities, teachers and training to help the other public and private schools in the area, as well as the students and their parents.

First Asia, for instance, organized contests for students of the Project Pepe participating schools in 2005. These contests promoted teamwork and friendly competition among the participating schools, as well as increased the stock knowledge of the students.

First Asia and its partner, Diwa Learning, will also shoulder the fees to be incurred by a teacher or administrator from each Project Pepe school who wishes to pursue a Masters degree in education.

It is hoped that by strengthening partnerships and linkages, the schools within the community will be able to identify their strengths and weaknesses, and then use their resources to solve common concerns.

At the top of the list of these concerns is the improvement in the quality of education, as seen in higher test scores, increase in the population of graduates, and the upgrading of the skills of teachers.

Natalie Christine V. Jorge, program director of Bato Balani Foundation, says the foundation comes into the program by helping produce the training manuals, facilitating the discussions and providing the guidelines to make the program work.

Scholarships

It also provides scholarships and training to deserving students and teachers.

Jorge says the program was born out of Bato Balani and Diwa's experience in the field of education over the past 15 years.

Founded in 1983, DLSI is the oldest of Diwa Asia's family of companies. It is the exclusive distributor of leading educational magazines for high school and grade school like Bato Balani, Hagibis, Salaguinto, Abracadabra, Tatsulok, Kaluskos, Buhawi, Magica, Damayan, Tambuli, Alitaptap, Batingaw, Math Talino and Punla.

Bato Balani, on the other hand, is a nonstock, nonprofit organization appointed to act as Diwa's social development arm.

Among BBFI's primary programs are the Anvil-Award-winning How To Be A Highly Effective Teacher, Tulong sa Paaralan, Tulay sa Kaunlaran and Quality Teacher campaigns. The foundation is also involved in various fund raising activities, library improvement programs, awards and recognition programs for outstanding educators and students, sports activities and environmental projects.

Genyo e-learning

Through BBFI, Diwa is able to fulfill its goal as a responsible corporate citizen.

"We believe creating academic ecosystems of learning is the solution and framework that we have been looking for," Jorge says.

The program has been in place for just a little over a year, but Jorge says results are already being felt.

"We see that students are more interested in their school work," Jorge says. "They also do not miss school anymore because there is always something new to look forward to."

Under Project Pepe, 13 students of Education were given full scholarships at First Asia for 2005-2006. There were seminars given on reading and values.

It was also Project Pepe that three public schools were provided the Genyo e-learning package to improve the e-learning capability of public schools.

She says Bato Balani is already working on replicating the program in other sites, such as Marinduque and parts of Mindanao.

Nationwide

Jorge says the program is also getting the support of other corporate foundations who have expressed interest in expanding the program to their own communities.

"We ultimately want it to be a nationwide program," Jorge says. "This is our own proposed solution to the problem of quality of education."

Peza: Investments up 54%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC Zone Authority reported that it has registered some P52 billion worth of investments from the start of the year up to Sept. 12.

The amount of registered investments was 54 percent higher than that posted in the same period last year, it said.

Also, Peza said it recently approved 13 new projects worth a total of some P8.2 billion. The projects will have an expected average export sales of about $769.1 million a year.

Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said the projects would be creating 3,999 new jobs.

De Lima said four of the new projects—worth some P112.6 million—would engage in information technology.

Of the total amount registered as of Sept. 12, locator investments accounted for P38.6 billion or about three-quarters, while ecozone developers represented P12.7 billion.

"Expected annual average direct employment to be generated by these investments is 59,360 or 6.9 percent higher than (the year-ago period's) 55,536," De Lima said.

During the period covered, IT investments approved for Peza registration numbered 320, or 27.5 percent higher than the 251 projects listed in the same period of 2005.

Of all the ventures registered, 264 were locator projects and 56 were ecozone developer projects.

The last round of approvals brought Peza registrations above the P1 trillion mark since the agency was created in 1995.

In 2005, Peza registered some 67 billion worth of investments. The agency has since expressed its confidence that it will exceed its target growth rate of 10 percent for the year.

In the same year, total exports from the country's economic zones registered an increase of some 6.3 percent to $32.9 billion from $30.9 billion the previous year.

Export revenues from the four public ecozones jumped 17.4 percent to a total of $8.1 billion, while those from 49 private or special economic zones (SEZ) rose by 2.4 percent to some $24.4 billion and those from 23 information technology parks and buildings went up 82.1 percent to $376.1 million.

Also, total employment in the ecozones rose 9.3 percent, with 1.11 million new jobs created last year compared to 1.02 million in 2004.

The 2005 figure account for some 445,000 direct jobs and some 667,000 indirect jobs.

Transco signs power pacts with 70 distributors

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN National Transmission Corp. (Transco) has signed transmission service agreements (TSAs) with around 70 power distributors, electric cooperatives and large power users all over the country.

Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said that he would expect all customers to sign the TSAs within the next three weeks, adding that no more deadline extensions would be given to those who would not be able to comply.

"The deadline was supposed to be July 31, but we gave some extensions," Ortiz said. "Actually, all TSAs should have already been signed last year, in preparation for open access and in compliance with the Grid Code."

All Transco customers, including electric cooperatives and distribution utilities, are required to ink TSAs with the state firm.

These agreements are based on the Energy Regulatory Commission's open access transmission service rules, and are in accordance with Transco's technical and commercial requirements for grid interconnection.

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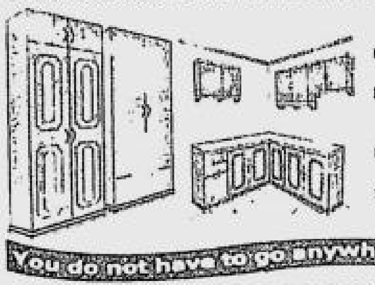

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SYCIP SALAZAR HERNANDEZ & GATMAITAN
MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION
October and November 2006
SyCipLaw Auditorium, 17/F SSHG Law Centre, 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

October 7 (Saturday) and **November 10** (Friday)	
MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**Updates on Labor Law: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations** (Updates on Laws & Jurisprudence) -- Dante T. Pamintuan
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Rules and Cases on Bar Discipline** (Legal Ethics) -- Ramon G. Songco
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**Foreign Investments in the Philippines** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Transnational Business Transactions) -- Rocky L. Reyes
October 14 (Saturday) and **November 3** (Friday)	
MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Three (3) Units 8:00 to 11:00 AM	**A Survey of Supreme Court Decisions on Commercial Law in 2005** (Updates on Jurisprudence) -- Rafael A. Morales
Three (3) Units 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	**Back to Basics in Ethics** (Legal Ethics) -- Mia G. Gentugaya
Three (3) Units 3:00 to 6:00 PM	**A Legal Perspective – Opportunities, Challenges and Risks for Foreign Investors in the Philippine Mining Industry** (MCLE-prescribed subject: Land and Economics) -- Marilyn A. Victorio-Aquino
October 21 (Saturday) and **November 24** (Friday)	
MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Two (2) Units 8:00 to 10:00 AM (Oct) 1:00 to 3:00 PM (Nov)	**Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights** (International Law) -- Vicente B. Amador
Two (2) Units 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Oct) 8:00 to 10:00 AM (Nov)	**Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Civil Cases** (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills) -- Anthony W. Dee
Two (2) Units 1:00 to 3:00 PM (Oct) 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Nov)	**Trial and Pre-Trial Skills in Maritime Cases** (Trial and Pre-Trial Skills) -- Domingo G. Castillo
Three (3) Units 4:00 to 6:00 PM	**Update on Taxation: Recent Jurisprudence, Laws, Rules and Regulations** (Updates on Laws & Jurisprudence) -- Carina C. Laforteza
October 28 (Saturday) and **November 17** (Friday)	
MCLE Credit Hours	Subject
Four (4) Units 8:00 to 12:00 AM	**Pleading Writing and Oral Advocacy** -- Carlos Roberto Z. Lopez
Three (3) Units 1:00 to 4:00 PM (Oct) 3:00 to 6:00 PM (Nov)	**Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Philippines** -- Ricardo Ma. P.G. Ongkiko
Two (2) Units 4:00 to 6:00 PM (Oct) 1:00 to 3:00 PM (Nov)	**Problem Areas and Issues Affecting Philippine Construction Arbitration** (Alternative Dispute Resolution) -- Emmanuel M. Lombos

(1) (a) Attendance at more than 2 days of sessions or the full course of 4 days: P10,000
(b) Attendance at no more than 2 days of sessions: P6,000
(c) Attendance at no more than 1 day of sessions: P3,000
(d) Attendance at any lecture will be considered attendance for a full day session for purposes of the registration fee.
(e) Registrants for the full course have the option to pre-select their attendance days within August to November
(f) For the full course, (i) a 10% discount will be given to early registrants (those who register and pay on or before October 4 (for October, or a combination of seminar dates starting in October) and October 20 (for November), clients of the Firm, SyCip alumni, and government employees, and (ii) a 15% discount for a group of 10 or more participants who shall register and pay simultaneously. In case more than one type of discount is applicable, only one type of discount can be availed of.
(2) The Registration Fee includes morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials, and the MCLE Certificate of Attendance.
(3) Payment should be in cash or check payable to SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan. Except for the early registrants, all check payments must be delivered at least 5 working days prior to the date of the first lecture to the SyCip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan Office, 4th Floor 105 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.
(4) We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control.

The lectures are open to lawyers and non-lawyers alike.

For more information, please call Ms. Joyce L. Rozul at 817-98-11 to 20 or send your inquiries by fax to 817-38-96, or, mcle@syciplaw.com

International Korean Language Foundation

Notification

The Fourth Employment Permit System Korean Language Test(EPS-KLT)

According to the M.O.U (Memorandums of Understanding on the sending of workers to the Republic of Korea (April 23, 2004)) between the Ministry of Labor of Korea and the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, the persons who hope to work in Korea should apply for the EPS-KLT. Passers can make applications for a job under the Employment Permit System. The International Korean Language Foundation executes the Fourth Employment Permit System-Korean Language Test (EPS-KLT) as follows:

▸ **Test date:** Oct 29. 2006 (Sunday) 2:00 p.m. ~ 3:30 p.m.

※ An applicant should arrive at a test room by 1:00 p.m. He/she will be informed of the test procedure for an hour.

▸ **Test domains and relevant details**

Test Domain	Number of Questions	Total Score	Time
Listening	25	100	40 min
Reading	25	100	50 min
Total	50	200	90 min

※ There is no interval between the listening and reading test.
A passer must get at least 40 points in either domain, and the total score of two domains must be at least 120 points.

▸ **Test venue**: to be announced
(on the POEA's website and the IKLF's website 5 days in advance of the test date)

▸ **Eligibility for the EPS-KLT**
- applicants must be 18 to 39 (inclusive);
- applicants must have not been convicted of a serious crime resulting in imprisonment or heavier punishment; and
- applicants must have no record of deportation or departure orders from the Republic of Korea; and
- applicants must be legally eligible to leave the Philippines.

▸ **Application procedure**

1) Application period
   - **Oct. 4th (Wed), 2006 ~ Oct. 13th, 2006 (8 days)**
2) Sites for application
   - The POEA Central Office of Manila
   - The POEA regional center of Davao City
   - The POEA regional center of Cebu City
3) Ceiling on the number of applicants
   - 10,000: male 9,500; female 500

   ※ **Applicants will be considered on a "first-come, first-served" basis**

	Manila	Cebu	Davao	Subtotal	Total
Male	6,700	1,400	1,400	9,500	10,000
Female	300	100	100	500	

4) Options for the Applicant
   - An applicant can apply to the POEA Central Office or regional centers either individually or as part of a group.

▸ **Other requirements for EPS-KLT**

1) EPS-KLT Application Form
2) Identification card (along with a copy of passport)
3) 3 Photographs (4.5cm X 3.5cm)
4) Medical checkup

※ An applicant who does not include his/her medical checkup in the application period must submit it later.

▸ **Examination Fee**
- **US$30 or its equivalent in peso**

▸ **Requirements for admission to the test room**
- **admission ticket (for the test), passport, pen, eraser**

※ An applicant's ID (i.e., Identification card) is acceptable, but driver's license, ID for public service, student ID etc. are not valid for test room admission. His/her passport is most preferable.

▸ **Announcement of successful candidacy**

1) Date: Nov. 14th, 2006 (Friday)

2) Official announcement sites
   - IKLF's website (http://www.glokorean.org)
   - POEA's website (http://www.poea.gov.ph)

▸ **Further information**
- The IKLF shall send an applicant's test results to the POEA (its regional centers) within three weeks of the test date. The POEA shall, in turn, give each individual applicant his/her EPS-KLT certificate on his/her visit to the POEA.
- An applicant should not carry mobile phones (or any illegal items) during the test.
- An applicant caught cheating in the test will be disqualified and cannot reapply for the test for the following two years.
- In case an applicant loses his/her admission ticket, the testing center can reissue it only if he/she presents a valid ID or passport.

◈ Passing the EPS-KLT does not guarantee an applicant's complete employment in Korea. It indicates only that he/she is entitled to be on the roster of job seekers.

◈ If an applicant either fails a physical checkup or has previous record of illegal foreign work, he/she will be disqualified.

The EPS-KLT is supervised by:
- The Ministry of Labor of the Republic of Korea

The EPS-KLT is administered by:
- The International of Korean Language Foundation

The EPS-KLT is supported by:
- Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Clutch Elements and Spare Parts under FDB 63451
Approved Budget: PHP 2,867,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Ms. Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** staring **September 15, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **September 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Wall Clock Time)** of **October 11, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI–Sept. 16 & 23, 2006)

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Basak, Lapu-lapu City
Tel. No.: 341-0416 to 20 or
Email to: info@futuragroupcorp.com

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
KORYO PHYSICAL HEALTH SERVICE INC. G/F Renaissance Bldg., Meralco Ave. Ugong, Pasig City	Sung Kwun Kim	Consultant
E.Z. MINING ENTERPRISES, INC. Room 508 Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Ave. Bel Air Village, Makati City	Xianan Zeng	Office Staff
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 53/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Yaojun Chen	Product Manager
KRAFT FOODS (PHILS.), INC. 8378 A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City	Randall Saunders	Manager, Manufacturing Business Development
MOHALLA GENERAL MERCHANDISE CORP. #41 Ilaya St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Sneh Lata	Operations Manager
SEOJUNE KOREA, INC. UG9 Megaplaza ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Ok Ran Yeo (w/o Kim)	Front Desk Officer
SEOJUNE KOREA, INC. UG9 Megaplaza ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Seonghoon Son	Reservation Officer
MCT PHILIPPINES, INC. G/F Plaza B, Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Charles Franklin Sumner	Sales Consultant
E.Z. MINING ENTERPRISES, INC. Rm. 508, Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Xuecheng Yu	Manager
WITH MAGIC TRAVEL & TOURS AGENCY, INC. 2303-B Gotesco Tower, N. Lopez St., Ermita, Manila	Samsoon Kim	Manager
UNITED DOUGLAS PHARM PHILIPPINES, INC. 1106A West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jin Young Yang	Managing Director
MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA Makati Ave. cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Marc A. Ennis	Director of Engineering and Projects
DISCOVERY TOUR, INC. G/F, Unit 301 Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village Makati City	Gyujin Choi	Sales Manager-Korean Department
IBM BUSINESS SERVICES, INC. 17 & 18th F, Cyber One Bldg., Eastwood Ave., E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City	Hiroko Kubota	Workforce Management Service Owner
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING & INNOVATION CONSULTING, INC. 12/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood, Libis, Quezon City	Sven Lütjens	German Language Trainer/German Account Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI - Sept. 23, 2006)

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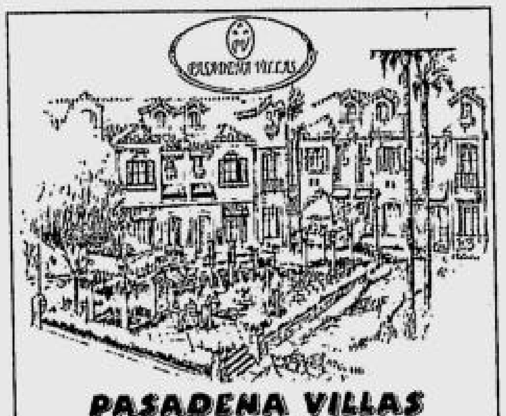
The Officers and Staff of

International Skill Development, Inc.,

extend its greetings to the

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

on the celebration of their National Day.



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Tel. No. 727-7941; 523-6640; 561-5520

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CHANGE OF BUSINESS NAME

Please be informed that **OBESO-ALCONTIN CONSTRUCTION CORP.**, whose business address is Camp 8, Toledo, Cebu has changed its Business Name to **OBESO-ALCONTIN CONSTRUCTION** which is now a single proprietorship owned by Mr. Fernando Estrada Alcontin. **OBESO-ALCONTIN CONSTRUCTION** is still located at Camp 8, Toledo, Cebu.

This paid advertisement is in connection with OBESO–ALCONTIN CONSTRUCTION'S change of Business Name & Status application with the Phil. Contractor's Accreditation Board (PCAB).

(PDI–Sept. 23, 2006)

SANYO DENKI *PHILIPPINES, INC.*
urgently needs

PRODUCTION CONTROL MANAGER

Must have at least 5 years extensive work experience in Production Control Planning based on accepting order and engineering information (order and Drawing) Progress Production Planning, Adjustments of Production, Delivery Date, Inventory controls of finished products, Forwarding works such as Import and Export processing can perform IZUMI, JUMP and ASHICUDA software.

PRODUCTION ENGINEERING MANAGER

Must have at least 5 years of extensive knowledge in the Production Engineering, and Facilities Maintenance. We are expecting the applicants to have at least a working knowledge of an Industrial Robotics course. The work experience should be in the field of maintaining production machines / equipments, facilities including building maintenance. Applicant must be an expert on the machines / equipments related to production of Fan Motors Servo Motors and Uninterruptible device.

All applicants for the above positions should be able to speak, read and write Nihongo.

Interested applicants should send their resumé with 2x2 picture and other credentials to:

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT CENTER
Bldg. 225, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

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WATCHES
JEWELRY
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Secondo Glorietta 1
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Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

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2004 KIA SORENTO
EXECUTIVE DRIVEN.
ALL ORIGINAL. VERY GOOD CONDITION.
P750,000
OR BEST OFFER.
CALL **8452195**
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Send your resumé instantly.
JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

RCBC unveils all-in-one access card

FILIPINOS HAVE GONE A LONG WAY WITH banking. Since the advent of high-tech banking, they have become accustomed to using ATM cards, credit cards and all sorts of electronic cards. But this being banking savvy has a price -- it has become a nightmare to maintain several deposit and checking accounts using various cards and Personal Identification Numbers (PINs). To help simplify this situation, RCBC recently introduced the myRCBC Access Card for its customers. As its name suggests, the new card provides clients "access" to all their RCBC accounts through all electronic channels in just one card. Aside from its regular ATM functions of cash withdrawals, deposits and balance inquiries, myRCBC access card can be used for, among others, bills payment, intrabank fund transfers, checkbook reorders, stop payment orders and even for cashless shopping through BancNet POS-accredited merchants. To enjoy the convenient features of myRCBC Access Card, please contact 877-RCBC, log on to www:rcbc.com, or email customercontact@rcbc.com, or visit the nearest RCBC Business Center.

Hematology symposia set

THE ASSOCIATION OF HEMATOLOGISTS IN Mindanao Fund (AHMF) and the Davao Medical Society (DMS) will hold the First Scientific Symposia on Hematology on Saturday, Sept. 23 at the Royal Mandaya Hotel in Davao City. With its theme "Patients Bleeding Badly – a Clinical Approach to Bleeding and Blood Transfusion," The symposia will feature foreign and local speakers who will talk on topics concerning bleeding problems in medical and surgical conditions; safety issues on blood transfusion through case discussion by a panel of experts from the medical, nursing and medical technology perspective. According to AHMF president Dr. Renie M. Maguinsay, head of the Organizing Committee and DMS president Dr. Ruby E. Robiso, the symposia is a collaboration of the DMS and the World Federation of Hemophilia as an opening activity of the 8th DMS Midyear Convention.

OBITUARY

Philippine Breast Cancer Network
Observes September 23rd as
Breast Cancer Warrior's Day

Do not stand at our graves and weep,
We are not there, we do not sleep.
We are the million stars that glow,
We are the thousand winds that blow.
We are the gentle drops of rain,
We are the sunlight on ripened grain.
We are the quiet birds in circled flight,
We are the soft hush of restful night.
Do not stand at our graves and cry,
We are not there, we did not die.

"Freedom from Breast Cancer!"
www.pbcn.org (0918) 908-PBCN

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

ANGELITA JONES LHUILLIER

wish to convey our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those
who spent time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, offered prayers
and in one way or another, condoled with us in the time
of our bereavement.

Her children and grandchildren:

Angie Mathieu;
Richard, Mickey, David

Michel & Amparito;
Charles Andre, Michael Edoaurd, Yvette & Monique

Amb. Philippe & Edna
Jean Henri, Christine, Jacqueline, Angelique, Philippe Andre
Camille and Madeleine

Marguerite;
Claudine and Christopher

DEATH NOTICE

We will miss you
Papa Ambreng...

AMBROCIO A. GARCIA, SR.

of San Narciso, Zambales

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 20, 2006 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife Rosita; children Jerry & Loida, Vicky & Dennis, Jhun & Aileen; grandchildren, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in San Narciso, Zambales.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 27, 2006.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

Amparo Santamaria-Lardizabal

Has returned to her Creator on September 3, 2006. We thank the Lord for the gift of her presence for the 98 years and for touching our lives.

We, her children, nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren, thank you for your visits and prayers and words of comfort during her illness; for your presence, condolences and support during her wake and request that you continue to include her in your prayers and Masses.

Leoncio "Leo" N. Nuestro

Retiree of United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 21, 2006 at the age of 58.

His body lies in state at 493 A. Luna St., Brgy. 3, Poblacion, Indang, Cavite.

Cremation will be on September 24, 2006, 11:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

IRENEO R. FERRER

Former Prov'l Board Member, Bulacan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on
21 September 2006 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife **Aurea**: children **Arlene & Dave, Al & Tess, Ferdie & Leah, Jay & Rissa**; grandchildren **Pauline, Aiel, DJ, Jade, Joyce, Jo Anne, Milen, Jeus, Marcus, Cyrus** and **Andrea**; sisters **Flor & Lita** and mother-in-law **Severina M. Capiral** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 149 Daan Estacion, Sn Jose, Bulacan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on 26 September 2006, 10:00 am at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, Sta Ana, Bulacan, Bulacan.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory
of

Rafael A. Arnaldo

(July 13, 1921 – September 23, 2004)

His wife, **Gregoria Cruz-Arnaldo**, children **Tony**, and **Anatess & Jim Oracion**, and grandchildren, request relatives and friends to remember him always in their prayers.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today,
on his **Second Death Anniversary**, at the following churches:

St. James The Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	6:20 a.m., 10:00 a.m. 12:15 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani and Santa Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	6:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Sto. Niño De Tondo Parish Church	8:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish, Delpan, Tondo, Manila	6:00 a.m.
Santa Cruz Church, Santa Cruz, Manila	8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
San Sebastian Church, Bilibid Viejo, Manila	9:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Abandon, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 a.m, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, Madison St., Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila	7:00 a.m.
Santuario De San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City	6:15 a.m.
Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace (Our Lady of Edsa), Edsa cor. Ortigas Ave., Quezon City	12:15 n.n.
Cathedral Shrine of Good Shepherd, Regalado Ave., Fairview, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
St. Peter Parish, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City	7:00 a.m.
Santo Domingo Church, Quezon City	7:15 a.m.
Our Lady of Annunciation, Mindanao Ave., Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
Santuario De San Antonio, McKinley Rd., Forbes Park	6:15 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish Church, Arnaiz St., Makati City	6:30 a.m.
Imus Cathedral, Imus, Cavite	6:30 a.m.
St. Martin De Porres Parish Church, Andrea I, Bacoor, Cavite	6:30 a.m.
Santa Monica Church, Angat, Bulacan	6:30 a.m.
Santa Rita De Casia, Binagbag, Angat, Bulacan	6:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Casaysay, Taal, Batangas	8:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Piat, Tuguegarao, Cagayan	6:00 a.m.
St. Nicholas Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, U.S.A.	11:30 a.m.

More CLASSIFIED ADS on pages...
National Transmission Corporation B6
Pag-Ibig B6
National Food Authority B6

Sunnex holds cooking show at SM

EASY-TO-DO RECIPES FROM CHEFS DOROTHY FERRERIA AND TRISTAN Encarnacion highlight the series of cooking demonstrations sponsored by Sunnex slated for 3 consecutive Saturdays from Sept. 23 to Oct. 1, at key SM branches throughout Metro Manila. Homemakers and avid cooking enthusiasts get a chance to enhance their cooking skills via valued tips to preparing variety of dishes using the ever reliable Sunnex stainless steel cookware. Sunnex distributed by Metro Kitchenware Inc is the brand choice of restaurateurs, homemakers and caterers. Upcoming Sunnex cooking demonstrations are scheduled on Sept. 30, 3 to 5 p.m. at SM Sta. Mesa; Oct. 1, 1 to 5 p.m. at SM North Edsa. To know more about the Sunnex cooking demonstrations, check with the SM information counter.

MCU Subspecialty Post Graduate Course

THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS OF THE MANILA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY shall hold its 6th Subspecialty Post Graduate Course entitled "Interdisciplinary Approach to Total Pediatric Health Care Series 2", from Oct. 23 to 24, at the MAB Hall, Philippine Heart Center. The course main objective is to provide medical and nursing updates on the proper care of infants and children suffering from common ailments and to familiarize the participants on how to handle medical and non-medical problematic situations in the pediatric health care. Registration on-site is P1,000. For more information contact Sherisa dL. Mamaril, MD or Eliza Villanueva 363-6406/0918-9344172.

Honda's 'Extra Easy' promo

THIS SEPTEMBER, HONDA CARS PHILIPPINES INC OFFERS CRV AND CITY buyers an "extra" special treat. It comes with free gasoline coupons or free car accessories worth P5,000. CRV Select cash buyers get free comprehensive Honda VIP insurance. Honda Value Insurance Program offers premier car insurance coverage and comprehensive roadside assistance service to give valued Honda owners peace of mind and security on all their travel needs. In addition, owning a Honda has been made 'easy' with several payment schemes to choose from. Honda buyers can pay through low monthly installment schemes for as low as P6,411 per month for a Honda City and P11,024 for a Honda CRV select. Other schemes include low downpayment plans with initial downpayment of as low as 15 percent. For more information, visit your nearest Honda dealer.

PSLIS/LIPPI seminar-workshop

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SPECIALISTS (PSLIS) and the League of Information Professionals of the Philippines (LIPPI) is inviting you to the seminar-workshop on "Knowledge Management and Records Documentation Trends and Strategies" at the Pearl Manila Hotel, Gen. Luna St. cor. Taft and UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila on Oct. 4 to 6. The seminar-workshop aims to familiarize the participants with the strategies using the potential of applicable IT system and to provide the current trend and strategies on knowledge management and records documentation on a global scale. For inquiries/reservation contact: Lyn, telefax 724-1994; Dorie, 0919-7727678; Vangie, 0919-5180128; Juven, 0915-8616725; Medy, 0917-8664357.

Star Movies' The Triangle promo

AUDIENCES ACROSS ASIA THRILLED TO EVERY ACTION-PACKED HOUR OF THE Triangle, Star Movies' limited series about the mysterious Bermuda Triangle from Filipino-American producer/screenwriter Dean Devlin (Stargate, Independence Day, Godzilla) and producer/director Bryan Singer (The Usual Suspects, X2: X-Men Unlimited, Superman Returns). Now Star TV is giving away three exclusive Star Movies flash-drive/laser printers goodies to those who can name or give 3 strange occurrences that transpired in the mini-series. E-mail your entry to starmovies_triangle@yahoo.com, and include your full name and contact number. The first 3 entries will be contacted by Stratworks with instructions on how to claim their prizes.

UP Alpha Phi Beta national convention

THE-ROLE OF THE UP ALPHA PHI BETA FRATERNITY IN NATION BUILDING AND government reforms will be one of the main agenda of the coming national convention on Oct. 20 to 22 at the Great Eastern Hotel, (Aberdeen Court) 1403 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. All Alphan brods are advised to contact vice lord chancellor lawyer Pastor "Mar" Reyes Jr., head of the national convention committee at 892-4435, 813-1553, fax 812-6026, e-mail pmreyes@meridiantelekoms.net, or the Convention Secretariat c/o lady chancellor Anna Czarina Peleo, e-mail: annapeleo@yahoo.com, or contact 931-5001 loc. 7325, 931-6442 for details.

Tech Deals on 0% Interest at the Hub

THE HUB, PLATFORM FOR THE LATEST IN MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY, lets you experience mobile connectivity with the Nokia E61 and Motorola V3X. As an added attraction, Globe presents an easy-on-the-pocket way to get hold of these sought-after phones through an irresistible 0 percent interest rate promo. The promo, which is exclusive to The Hub by Globe Telecom at Glorietta 4, offers flexible, easy payment terms. Avail of a 0 percent interest rate for up to an 18-month term. The Nokia E61 prepaid phonekit is offered for as low as P 1,200 per month and the Motorola V3X at P1,017 per month. Post-paid subscribers can get the Nokia E61 free at Plan 2500 and the Motorola V3X free at Plan 1600. The 0 percent interest is available with your Metrobank, HSBC, Citibank, Security/Diners, Equitable PCI, Banco De Oro, AIG, and BPI credit cards. The promo is available until Sept. 24.

Bits Clips

PEP-Kids workshop

THE CENTER FOR FAMILY MINISTRIES (CEFAM) IS OFFERING ITS PARENTING workshop, Positive Empowered Parenting of Kids (PEP-Kids), a skills-building seminar for parents and caregivers of children between 1-12 years old. The PEP-Kids Workshop will be conducted on Oct. 7 and 14, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Cefam in the Ateneo de Manila campus in Loyola Heights, Q.C. Topics include building a positive parent-child relationship, effective communication, enhancing self-esteem, and positive discipline. Fee is P1,800 per person (includes handouts, lunch and snacks for both days). Interested parties may call Cefam at 426-4289 to 92.

57th SOS International Day

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 57TH SOS DAY, SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE MANILA held a musical presentation recently in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. "Pop Music invades SOS" was a night of song and dance numbers from the children themselves. SOS Day is a special celebration of SOS Children's Villages all over the world in commemoration of the birthday of its founder, Dr. Hermann Gmeiner. The other six Children's Villages in the country also celebrated the day with formal blessing of additional Family Houses, outreach programs with neighboring barangays and musical celebrations with invited sponsors and friends. SOS Children's Villages provides long-term residential care and education to children in need. Here, a child finds a home in a village with brothers and sisters and a mother who has dedicated her life to the children entrusted to her care. For 39 years now in the Philippines, it has established seven Children's Villages located in Calbayog, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Lipa, Tacloban and here in Alabang. For details on how to help, you may contact Aleah Ortiz of the National Office at 807 – 0764 or 850–9654 or visit www.sosphil.org.

5th AFCSR set

THE FIFTH ANNUAL ASIAN FORUM ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (AFCSR) will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Metro Manila, on Sept. 25 and 26. The theme for the 2006 event is Harnessing CSR for Development and Democracy. The Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, recognized as being the largest and most significant conference on CSR in Asia, highlights innovative programs and best practices in CSR by corporations in Asia and to promote CSR as a key strategy in addressing society's needs and problems, to promote new thinking and standards on CSR as strategy, and to build a network of CSR practitioners across Asia. For more information on the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility, visit www.asianforumcsr.com.

5TH Philippine Robotics Olympiad

THE PHILIPPINE ROBOTICS OLYMPIAD (PRO) IS NOW ON IT'S 5TH YEAR. AN estimate of over 80 teams/schools will be competing this year. The categories are: for elementary level (ages 10-12 yrs. old) Robot Soccer and for high school level (ages 13-15 yrs. old) Robot Adventure. The preliminaries will be on Oct. 5 and final judging on Oct. 12, both to be held at the Activity Center, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. The Open Category theme is "Humanoids" and final judging will be on Oct. 12. The grand awardees of the 5th PRO will represent the country in the World Robot Olympiad 2006 to be held in Nanning, China from Nov. 15-18. For more details, contact Coni Inocencio at 912-1397/ 438-1756.

The Back of Affection at UP

"BACK OF AFFECTION," AN INSTALLATION BY MIDORI HIROTA, A JAPANESE artist based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, will be exhibited at the University of the Philippines (UP) Faculty Center Galeria 1, from Oct. 9 to 13. Gallery hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The idea for Hirota's compelling work sprung from a visit to Fort Santiago in August 2005, which coincided with the anniversary of the end of WWII. For more info, contact Flaudette May V. Datuin, project leader, at 927-0581.

Foreign Direct Investment Workshop

THE FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) WORKSHOP ORGANIZED BY the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) together with the Joint Foreign Chambers to be held on Oct. 5, at the Hotel InterContinental in Makati City. In accordance with the theme "How the Philippines Can Attract $3 Billion a Year in FDI," workshop participants will develop recommendations for improvements in the investment climate which could propel the Philippines to receive double or even triple the current levels of FDI.

2nd MAP-Maybank Badminton Tournament

MAYBANK PHILIPPINES RECENTLY PARTNERED WITH THE MALAYSIAN ASSOciation of the Philippines (MAP) for the 2nd MAP-Maybank Badminton Tournament which was held last weekend of August at the PowerSmash Badminton Court, Pasong Tamo, Makati City. The tournament was organized in conjunction with the 49th Malaysia's Independence Day celebrations which was Aug. 31 . As title sponsor, Maybank was able to field in 11 competing pairs to the tournament, highlight of which was the match-ups of badminton's best players in the Open Level. The Maybank Group and sports are synonymous. Besides being the number one financial institution in Malaysia, the group also strives to be number one in sports. The spirit of camaraderie, togetherness and team spirit coalesce well with the group.

PSEM workshops

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM (PSEM), recently conducted two workshops in Dumaguete and Palawan as part of the mission to bring quality endocrine care, education and research to each region of the country. Committed to promote awareness and improve endocrine health care to all Filipinos, patients and their families, the PSEM held its first lay forum in endocrinology in Dumaguete July 9. Six weeks on Aug. 23, patients from Puerto Princessa, Palawan rushed to Legend Hotel to listen to the free lay session sponsored by PSEM.

Millions of pesos at stake in SMC promo

SAN MIGUEL CORP'S (SMC) "SPOT A MILLION CASH PROMO" IS A CONSUMER raffle involving 10 of the country's favorite food and beverage brands. Proofs of purchase of these products are required to join wherein a million can be instantly won by a studio contestant. Entries may either be proofs of purchase of San Miguel Beer (3 tansans), San Mig Coffee (2 boxes of 6 any variant), Magnolia Fresh Milk (3 tetra packs), Ginebra San Miguel (2 selyo of Bilog 350 ml), Star Margarine (1 label 250g any variant), Magnolia Ice Cream (1 pint lid/cover any variant), Grand Matador Brandy (2 caps of Solo 350 ml), Purefoods Tender Juicy Hotdog (1 promo sticker cut-out from pack), Purefoods Chicken Fun Nuggets (1 carton any variant), or the new fun snack E-aji Dip Snax (3 foil packs any variant). Entries with any of these proofs of purchase should be contained in a sealed envelope that bears the promo title and the name of the brand of the proof of purchase. Inside the envelope on a separate sheet, the contestants' name, age, address, telephone number and signature is required to make a valid entry. Drop box centers are at all San Miguel Food Shops and Selected Monterey Meatshops, LBC branches, GMA 7 radio and TV stations, SM Supermarkets/Hypermarts, and other groceries and supermarkets nationwide. The 2 minute weekly game show will be aired at GMA 7 between 8:50 to 9:20 p.m. starting Sept. 20 to Oct. 13.

PanOxyl promo

PANOXYL, THE PROVEN PIMPLE TREATMENT ON the face of the planet, with its newest promo, "Panoxyl Pimple Free, Cash Spree", will give away fabulous to very lucky winner. Prizes at stake are Ipod Nanos, Nokia 6233 cellphones, cash prizes and grand cash prize of P300,000. To join, write your name, age, contact number, name and branch of store where the product was purchased on a piece of paper. Place it in an envelope with a PanOxyl pack and it's official receipt as proof of purchase. You may drop your entries in dropboxes in leading drugstores, GMA-7 and ABS-CBN Manila and provincial stations nationwide or mail it to PanOxyl Pimple Free, Cash Spree c/o Procast Inc, #20 San Roque Street, Bo. Kapitolyo Pasig City, 1603. Preliminary draw winners will be on Oct. 22. Winner's store of purchase will also receive P2,500 each. Grand draw draw will be on Dec. 6.

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

INVITATION TO BID

The Pag-IBIG Fund is inviting interested individuals, juridical persons, Fund officers and employees to submit offers to purchase by way of individual Sealed Bids on an "AS IS, WHERE IS Basis" for the following unserviceable Motor vehicles:

DESCRIPTION	NO. OF UNITS
1996 Toyota Corolla XL	5 units
1993 Toyota Tamaraw FX 1.5	1 unit
1994 Toyota Tamaraw FX Wagon	12 units
1995 Mitsubishi Lancer	9 units
1994 Honda Civic Esi, Sedan	7 units
1995 Nissan Vanette	1 unit
TOTAL	35 units

Bidding Guidelines will be available at the Property Custodianship Division, General Services Department, Rm 704, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, City of Makati beginning September 21, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Hundred Pesos (P 100.00) only.

Pre-bid conference shall be held on September 29, 2006 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at Room 602, 6th floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, Atrium of Makati Condominium, Makati Avenue, Makati City. Schedule of submission and opening of bids will be announced during the said conference.

The Pag-IBIG Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the Fund. Further, the Pag-IBIG Fund assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in participating in this bidding.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call Mr. Cesar V. Racoma at 894-58-15 or 811-42-62.

(Sgd.) **DELIA L. BERNARDO**
Vice President, Administration Group
Chair, Disposal Committee

(PDI–Sept. 21, 22 & 23, 2006)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2007

The Contract shall be for the Supply and Delivery of 5,000 Sets Steel Poles Type B, Class 2, Grade 65, Direct Burial Application, Zinc Coated, ASTM A572 / A607 /1011 composed of various sizes:

50 Ft. - 1,296 sets;
55 Ft. 2,040 sets;
60 Ft. 1,136 sets; and
65 Ft. - 528 sets

In Accordance with Transco Specifications and Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents (BCMD.2006-019)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through the **Annual Corporate Budget for the Contract approved by TransCo Board** intends to apply the sum of Philippine Peso **300,000,000.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles for CY 2007 *(BCMD.2006-019)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Supply and Delivery of Steel Poles, Direct Burial application in medium corrosive atmospheric condition, galvanized, Grade 65, ASTM A572/A607/1011** as per latest TransCo. Approved Specifications. Delivery of the GOODS is required within **120 calendar days from contract effectivity.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting September 25, 2006 from **8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 20,000.00.*** The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on October 11, 2006, *10:00 A.M. at Hilario C. Gaerlan Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **October 25, 2006, *10:00 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **October 25, 2006, *10:00 A.M.*** *at Felimon C. Rodriguez Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
9. The Bidding is also open to Foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described above and in the Bidding Documents.
10. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring ay liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos. (632) 981-4652; 981-2212; 981-2213
TeleFax No.: (632) 921-23-08
Email address: jmilagan@transco.ph
http://www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 23 & 30, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Pier Site, Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES FOR NFA REGION V

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Region V, Legazpi City invites all interested private security agencies to register, apply for eligibility and to bid for the provisions of Security Services in the different installations of NFA Region V. The service contract to be bid shall cover the period January 01, 2007 to December 31, 2007 and shall be divided into two (2) lots as follow:

LOT	AREA COVERED	NO. OF GUARDS	BUDGET	SOURCE
1	Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur and Catanduanes	38	P 5,152,872.96	Corporate Operating Budget
2	Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate	47	P 6,372,352.92	

Registration forms / documents will be available for issuance at RBAC Secretariat, NFA Legazpi City upon payment of P1,000.00 which is non-refundable.

Only duly registered Security Service Contractor with the RBAC shall be issued eligibility/bid documents and participate in the Pre-Bidding conference and the Bidding Proper upon payment of a nonrefundable bidding fee of P3,000.00 per lot.

The schedule of bidding activities to be held at the NFA Regional Office, Legazpi City are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME
Issuance of application forms for registration	Sept. 25-Oct. 06, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for submission of application for registration with required documents	Oct. 17, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Certificate of Registration	Oct. 18-23, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Application Form/Eligibility Requirements and other Bid Documents	Oct. 23-27, 2006	8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Pre-bidding Conference	Nov. 06, 2006	10:00 a.m.
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 20, 2006	9:30 a.m.
Opening of Sealed Bids	Nov. 20, 2006	10:00 a.m.

A Special Power of Attorney is required before the issuance of the documents for authorized representative on behalf of the bidder.

The entire bidding process shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The prospective bidder must submit a single largest contract, the value of which adjusted to current price using the wholesale price index, and completed within the preceding two (2) years and similar to the contract to be bid must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other inquiries may be addressed to the RBAC Secretariat, NFA Region V, Legazpi City with telephone numbers (052) 480-7015 / 480-7933 / 820-0018.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OF ALL BIDS THEREOF, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **JOSE B. GUEVARA**
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – September 23 & 30, 2006)

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People urged to keep their heart 'young'

By Charles E. Buban

FOR TOMORROW'S OBSERVance of World Heart Day event organizer World Heart Federation is urging people around the world to put an effort into keeping their heart "young" so that a dramatic decrease in number of premature deaths resulting from heart disease and stroke may finally be realized.

To help the heart "age more slowly," the WHF suggests that people control the major cardiovascular risk factors by choosing a healthy diet, being physically active and by not smoking.

The appeal has been relayed to the rest of WHF's member-organizations in more than 100 countries—including the Philippine Heart Association—and enjoined them to lead activities that will hopefully reverse this deadly health trend.

"We must go on campaigning to promote healthy eating, get everybody into regular exercise routine and convince one to quitting smoking, PHA president Cesàr Recto II appeals to fellow doctors. "The fact that heart disease and stroke remain the world's top killers—claiming 17.5 million lives a year—means that cooperative action from across all sectors and levels of government is vital in order for us to make a substantial progress in our mission," he adds.

Never too late

Despite the escalating number of premature deaths, Recto believes it is never too late for anyone to start living a healthy lifestyle.

"By asking every Filipino to think about the age of their hearts tomorrow—incidentally 'How Young Is Your Heart' is this year's global theme—we are encouraging everybody to turn over a new page in their life and adopt a heart-healthy lifestyle," he says.

World Heart Day 2006 overall chair and PHA secretary Dr. Ma. Belen Carisma agrees that tomorrow's activities around the world are probably the most important advocacy ever organized to increase the world's awareness of the threat of heart disease and stroke and the importance of a heart-healthy lifestyle.

"The aim is straightforward: so the children, adolescents and adults all over the world can live better and longer. As we all know, the heart needs regular exercise to keep it pumping blood efficiently with every heart beat. Besides physical inactivity increases the risk of obesity and overweight, diabetes and hypertension which all make the heart age faster. Quitting smoking will also help keep the heart young as it helps maintain 'good' cholesterol levels, reduces the levels of blood clotting and overall, decreases the chance of a sudden blockage of a blood vessel," Carisma explains.

According to her, it is also important to maintain a balanced approach to eating by cutting down on portions and focusing on lower-fat foods and whole grains and fruits and vegetables.

Obesity and being overweight

But while the world's attention is directed at these three risk factors, Carisma reminds that being obese and overweight is also a growing epidemic—with more than 1 billion overweight adults worldwide, at least 300 million of them obese—that should also be addressed as obesity and being overweight also increase risk of heart disease and stroke.

This problem is not only evident in adults considering that 22 million children under 5 years are also estimated to be overweight worldwide according to the World Heart Organization.

"Being overweight and obese leads to adverse metabolic effects on blood pressure, cholesterol, blood fats (triglycerides) and insulin resistance, which all lead to the development of heart disease and stroke as well as type 2 diabetes," Carisma explains.

But while the prevalence of overweight and obesity is commonly assessed by using body mass index (defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters [kg/m^2]), the presence of abdominal obesity, which is easily determined by measuring waist circumference, has been found to be a better predictor of risk of developing heart disease and stroke.

Simple, crucial first step

"The measuring of one's waistline (with tape measure placed at the level of the navel) is simple and crucial first step toward tackling heart disease. It's a better indicator of risk than the often used body mass index, which does not distinguish fat from muscle (for example an athlete may have a high BMI because muscle is heavier than fat)," Sanofi-aventis Philippines medical director Dr. Alma Casareo explains.

Last year, the Paris-based pharmaceutical giant commissioned a survey called "Shape of the Nations," revealing that six out of 10 physicians recognize abdominal fat—the ones that are located near the guts and not the ones readily felt under the tummy skin—as a significant risk factor for heart disease.

"However, the same survey found that only a minority of the public are aware that a large waistline could put them at risk for heart disease and less than one in five people can expect to have their waist circumference measured by their doctor," Casareo reports.

The Shape of the Nations survey was conducted in 27 countries in July 2005 among the public and people identified as at risk for heart disease.

Marker

Having a large waistline is a very important marker, Carisma explains, adding that patients with increasing abdominal obesity, when occurring with other cardiovascular risk factors including unhealthy cholesterol levels (dyslipidemia), high blood pressure and raised glucose levels, are at risk of heart disease and stroke.

A high-risk waist circumference for Filipinos is having a waistline of more than 80 cm (31.5 inches) for women and 90 cm (35.5 inches) for men.

"If you have a large waist circumference have your doctor check the other markers namely, blood sugar (if it's high), 'bad' cholesterol (if there's too much), 'good' cholesterol (if there's not enough), blood fats (if it's high) as well as blood pressure (if elevated)," Carisma says.

She explains that these cardiometabolic risk factors could help doctors tell their patients how close they may be from developing a disease and afterward discuss the ways to delay if not prevent its development (practicing heart-healthy lifestyle and taking medications).

Prevent heart disease, choose the right diet

By Tessa R. Salazar

LIFE SHOULDN'T BE A SCARY walk on a field of land mines for those afraid of suffering a heart attack. All you need to do is read up and be creative, and ask.

If you ask health experts from the World Heart Day (spearheaded by the World Heart Federation, which includes 189 cardiologic societies and heart foundations from 100 countries), a low-calorie, nutritionally balanced diet has been associated with slowing the aging process of the heart.

And then you couple that with regular physical activity, which reduces the risk of stroke by over 25 percent and the risk of coronary heart disease by over 40 percent (according to the Journal of the American Medical Association in its October 2002 edition). According to Liverpool John Moores University (January 2005), the hearts of veteran athletes aged 50 to 70 have been found to be as strong and healthy as those of an inactive 20-year-old.

Choose, not avoid

Food and Nutrition Research Institute research head Fely Velandria says that a person's motivation to live a full life is as important as the knowledge of what is good or bad for his or her heart. Thus, she advises caregivers, experts and doctors to use positive, empowering terms that include "choose only" or "limit" instead of the restrictive "avoid." The latter word, she notes, isn't too encouraging.

So with that in mind, here's a "choose" and "limit" list for anyone "choosing to live" and not "avoiding to die."

1 **Choose veggies, fruits, dried beans, legumes and limit processed or canned foods.** Recommended diet for fruits and veggies are two to three servings of fruit a day and then two servings of vegetables. One serving of vegetables is one cup raw or one-half cup cooked veggies. Two servings is equivalent to two cups of raw vegetables or one cup cooked veggies per day and then three servings of fruits. Choose the deep-colored fruits (green, yellow, red, orange) as these are high in antioxidants.

2 **Choose foods high in complex carbohydrates.** These are starchy foods with fiber such as whole grain cereals, wheat, oatmeal, corn, pasta, root crops, camote, gabi and legumes.

3 **Choose to always eat in moderation, and choose variety over volume.** There's no single food that contains all the nutrients that our body needs.

4 **Limit the salt, or choose low salt.** The maximum allowable intake for salt or sodium in a day is less than 2,000 mg. Choose deep-sea fish such as salmon or tuna (fresh not canned) instead of other seafood. Limit your intake of table seasoning (such as *patis* or *bagoong*) and even catsup.

Choose to read the labels of your condiments to determine their sodium content.

5 **Protein sources of patients with heart disease would be fresh fish (deep sea) and dried beans.**

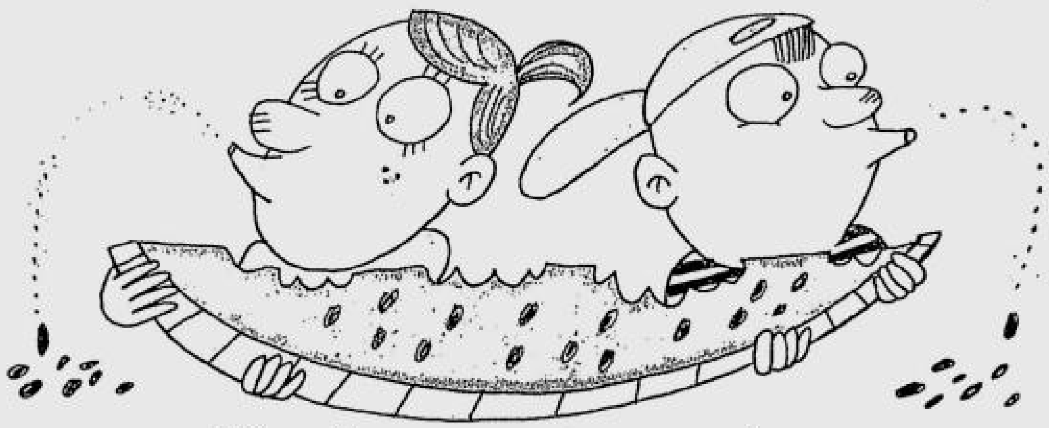
6 **If you like more taste in your food, choose substitutes to seasonings such as spices and herbs.** Others would put fruit as seasoning (*calamansi or lemon). And if you just can't resist dipping your fingers into that saucer of patis,* choose to dilute that in water to reduce the salt content.

7 **Choose low fat.** It's usually indicated prominently in the labels.

8 **Choose low cholesterol foods to prevent fatty buildup in your arteries.**

9 **Limit the carbonated drinks.** It's packed with preservatives, sugar and sodium benzoate.

10 **The required caloric content depends on your age, sex and physical activities.** Look for FNRI's Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake for Filipinos (Reni) on its website, or google "recommended energy and nutrient intake for Filipinos." Even as you read and learn more, never forget to consult your doctor and nutritionist.



Glorious watermelon and homemade soap

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

GRADE FIVE STUDENT P.G. HAS this question: **I know we have to eat many fruits and vegetables daily, but I don't really like vegetables, and the only fruits I like are oranges and watermelons. We learned that orange is good in vitamin C, but when I asked my teacher about watermelon, she told me it is mostly water. Does watermelon have any vitamins? If so, what are they? Thank you for your time.**

Our whole family loves watermelon. My 8-year-old son especially loves sipping the juice. Your teacher is right—watermelon is 92 percent water. But I have good news: Watermelon has lots of vitamins, and it is very good for you.

Watermelon contains vitamin A, which helps eyesight, keeps our skin and hair glossy, and promotes growth. Like your other favorite—orange, watermelon is also a good source of vitamin C. I am sure you know that vitamin C helps us fight infection, repairs wounds, and keeps our gums healthy.

Some studies also show that watermelon has lycopene, which can help fight heart disease. Lycopene is also found in tomatoes and pink grapefruit. Watermelon also has beta-carotene, again good for our eyes.

You are probably too young to worry about weight now, but for all its health benefits, watermelon is low in calories. A cup or a slice of watermelon has only 43 calories, but it can make us feel full. Best of all, on hot days, watermelon is incredibly refreshing, so load up!

One piece of advice though: try your best to eat other fruits and vegetables, too. You can suggest to your parents or your cook that the vegetables be put into chicken soup, with sauted noodles, or served with yummy dressing so you will be more willing to eat them. I thank DOST mediaperson Ma. Idelia Glorioso for providing the facts on watermelons.

Cindy Macalinao [c_mac792003@yahoo.com] asks: **Do you have recipes about making homemade soap from cooking oil?**

The Internet has loads of tips, recipes and methods to make homemade soap from oils, which are too numerous to mention here. Why don't you try out the following websites? Zenda's Homemade Soap and Beauty Recipes [www.greensense.com/ZENDA.HTM] uses coconut and olive oils. While reading the recipe in Make Stuff [www.make-stuff.com/formulas/soap.html], I was almost tempted to try my hand at soap making, for the site uses vanilla and almond oils. But soap making is not as simple as it seems. To ensure safety, read the tips on eHOW [www.ehow.com/how_ 5911_make-homemade-soap.html]. For instance, be careful when adding lye to water or else you can get burned. If you have a responsible teenager who wants to help, why not work out the instructions for classroom soap making together? A student in Illinois, USA gives the details in www.iit.edu/~smile/ch9103. html.

Lorna Cabayanan [lorna_0813@yahoo.com], a teacher at Alaminos City National High School in Pangasinan, has this request: **I am an avid fan of yours. I am trying to finish my master's degree. My study is on making modules for intermediate algebra, and I need some literature about this, especially on how to make modules.**

Thank you for reading my columns. Regarding your request, first of all, you need to ask your adviser's help. He or she should be able to point out good references. Next, you can contact the Department of Education, because they should have many teaching modules available, especially for required subjects like Intermediate Algebra. Last, you can always go to the web. When I googled your request, hundreds of sites appeared. For instance, you can download (for free) several algebra modules (calculator, magic tricks, etc.) from Making Math Fun [www.greenleecds.com/mathdownloads.html]. Good luck!

E-mail the writer at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Check your BP properly

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF HYPERTENSION (PSH) is currently holding its 4th Specialist Course for the Practice of Hypertension. It's an intensive five-day course designed to serve as a review and update of clinical knowledge of hypertension and related disorders for aspiring specialists in hypertension.

The lectures and discussions are all in-depth and highly technical, which are appropriate for aspiring hypertension specialists, but in the midst of such a high-brow discussion was the sad reality that many—and that includes physicians—are not checking the blood pressure properly, leading to erroneous BP recordings, hence, inappropriate treatment.

Dr. Luis Raymond Go of the Philippine Heart Center was right in saying that many patients are being condemned to be hypertensive and sentenced to a lifelong treatment when in fact, their spurious BP elevations were just caused by some error in the procedure of determining the BP. So every physician must make sure that before he even tries to upgrade his knowledge on modern therapeutic strategies to control hypertension and its complications, he must make sure he and his clinic staff are checking the BP properly. Since home monitoring of the BP is now strongly encouraged, patients must also be trained on the right procedure.

Uncalibrated BP devices and worn-out BP cuffs are a frequent source of erroneous BP recordings. One can take one's BP apparatus to any hypertension specialist who will gladly advise the patient on the status of their apparatus.

Practical pointers

Dr. Go gave some practical but frequently overlooked pointers to make sure we get accurate BP readings:

- Make sure the patient is rested and at ease for at least five minutes, preferably 10 minutes, before checking the BP.
- Avoid extraneous variables that may affect BP 30 minutes prior to evaluation such as food intake, exercise, intake of caffeine or other stimulants such as colds or cough preparation, smoking, full urinary bladder, too cold environment (12 degrees Centigrade or 54 degrees Fahrenheit) and talking during BP measurement.
- Patient must be seated in a quiet room with back fully supported, arm resting with palm facing upward and elbow flexed at heart level.
- Manometer must be at eye level—close enough to read the calibrations.
- The BP cuff must be wrapped smoothly and snugly around the arm with the center of the cuff bladder over the palpated brachial artery.

BP fluctuates

Some patients wonder why their BP fluctuates from time to time during the day when they check it. This is not really alarming unless the swings in the BP are excessive. A 20 mmHg change in the systolic BP and a 5-8 mmHg change in the diastolic BP should not be a cause for anxiety, which can only make the BP more labile. The normal 24-hour BP pattern is such that the BP is highest during the early morning hours with a BP surge on waking up, and it gradually goes down during the latter part of the day and reaches a nadir at or around midnight.

To check for this BP variability, ideally, multiple readings should be done by the patient at home or at the office at various times during the waking hours; and to assess the effectiveness of whatever therapy the patient is on, the BP should be measured prior to his/her intake of antihypertensive medications, so as to determine the trough effect, which is the effect of the drug in lowering the BP when its level in the blood is relatively low already just prior to the next dose.

Digital BP devices

How about digital BP devices, are they accurate? There are some brands which have been validated by experts and are certified to be accurate, but most brands still have to pass this requirement. You can ask your physician for a listing of the specific brands which have been validated.

Although mercury sphygmomanometers have long been considered the gold standard of BP measurement, many hypertension societies are joining the move to recommend digital and other mercury-free devices to replace the conventional mercury sphymomanometers. Mercury, when exposed, is a highly toxic metal which can cause serious health risks. Its toxic but invisible vapors can remain in the environment for many years.

Teves bucks bill on state-run credit schemes

Gov't saves P17.6B in interest payments

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT SAVED P17.6 billion in the first eight months of the year for paying less-than-expected amounts of interest on its borrowings, a result of the relatively low interest-rate environment and the strengthening of the peso.

According to a report by the Department of Finance, the government spent P221.4 billion to pay interest on its liabilities from January to August. These liabilities consisted of those incurred through the issuance of government securities and availment of official development assistance extended by foreign lenders.

The Arroyo administration originally allotted P239 billion in the first eight months for interest payments.

Fiscal authorities said gains on the fiscal front, particularly the government's declining budget deficit, helped boost investor sentiment and risk premiums on the government's debt offerings were lower than expected.

For instance, the average rate of the benchmark 91-day treasury bill averaged at only 5.3 percent in January to August. This was lower than the 6.4-6.5 percent assumed by fiscal authorities in the setting of the 2006 fiscal program.

The stronger-than-expected peso also helped reduce the amount of the government's foreign-denominated liabilities. Under the government's fiscal program, the peso was originally assumed to settle at an average of between 54 and 56 to a dollar.

Increased inflow of foreign portfolio investments due to the positive sentiment arising from the fiscal gains and growth in remittances of overseas Filipino workers led the peso higher. The local currency is close to breaching the P50-to-$1 level.

The lower-than-programmed amount of interest payments in the first eight months of the year will somehow free up funds for other expenditures in the government's budget, which had been very tight over the years because of the need to service maturing obligations.

The government has been allocating about a third of its annual budget for interest payments alone, leaving little for vital expenditure programs like infrastructure.

The government has set a target of reducing the budget deficit this year to only P125 billion from last year's P146.8 billion. Based on its fiscal performance in the first eight months of the year, however, fiscal authorities said the full-year deficit figure was likely to fall way below the target.

In January to August, the deficit hit only P34.2 billion, or just 27 percent of the full-year deficit ceiling. Projections by some analysts on the full-year deficit range from P80 billion to P100 billion.

Safeguards readied to prevent misuse of govenrment funds

By Doris C. Dumlao

SINGAPORE—FINANCE SECRETARY Margarito Teves is not too keen on taking the legislative route as a means to resurrect state-controlled credit programs, which were scrapped during the term of President Estrada.

The Estrada-era EO 138 barred non-financial government agencies and state-owned or -controlled corporations from participating in credit programs.

It called for a greater role of the private sector in the provision of financial services to the basic sector and the adoption of market-oriented financial and credit policies such as market-oriented interest rates on loans and deposits.

The government's role was limited to providing an enabling policy environment, critical support services and capacity-building services that will facilitate the increased participation of the private sector in the delivery of credit services.

Early this month, however, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued EO 558 to repeal the Estrada EO, triggering fears of government dole-outs that could again bloat the budget deficit.

A bill was recently filed in Congress by Bukidnon Rep. Teofisto Guingona III seeking to resurrect in the form of a law the content of EO 138.

In an interview with the INQUIRER at the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank meetings, Teves said: "I'm not really certain whether policies of this nature can be put into legislature."

"It will take a long time and in the meantime, my own preference is to have a policy which is flexible and where everybody can arrive at a consensus," he said.

Right now, Teves said there appeared to be a common view among business and economic managers that EO 138 was good for the country.

But he noted that the new EO 558 issued by Ms Arroyo was already being adjusted to ensure proper safeguards.

"I'm not sure if we could quickly make these adjustments if we put this in the form of a law," Teves said.

"Right now, we think that EO 138 is superior but a lot of people may argue that with issues like population growth, there's a need to make adjustments," he said.

He earlier said the executive department was now working on a framework to control the scope of liberalization allowed by the repeal of EO 138, narrowing down its coverage to 47 priority local government units.

"Like other developing countries, there might be a need to rethink even population management," he said.

The finance chief also acknowledged the urgent need for the government to beef up infrastructure spending in order to catch up with the rapid economic growth in the rest of Asia.

Guingona's House Bill No. 5788 proposes to make it illegal for government non-financial agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and other government-owned or -controlled corporations to directly lend to the general public.

"What was achieved by the issuance of EO 138 should be restored and safeguards against policies that were proven to be ineffective and disastrous be established. Enough of bad economics. Let us do away with the vampire called directed credit programs," Guingona said.

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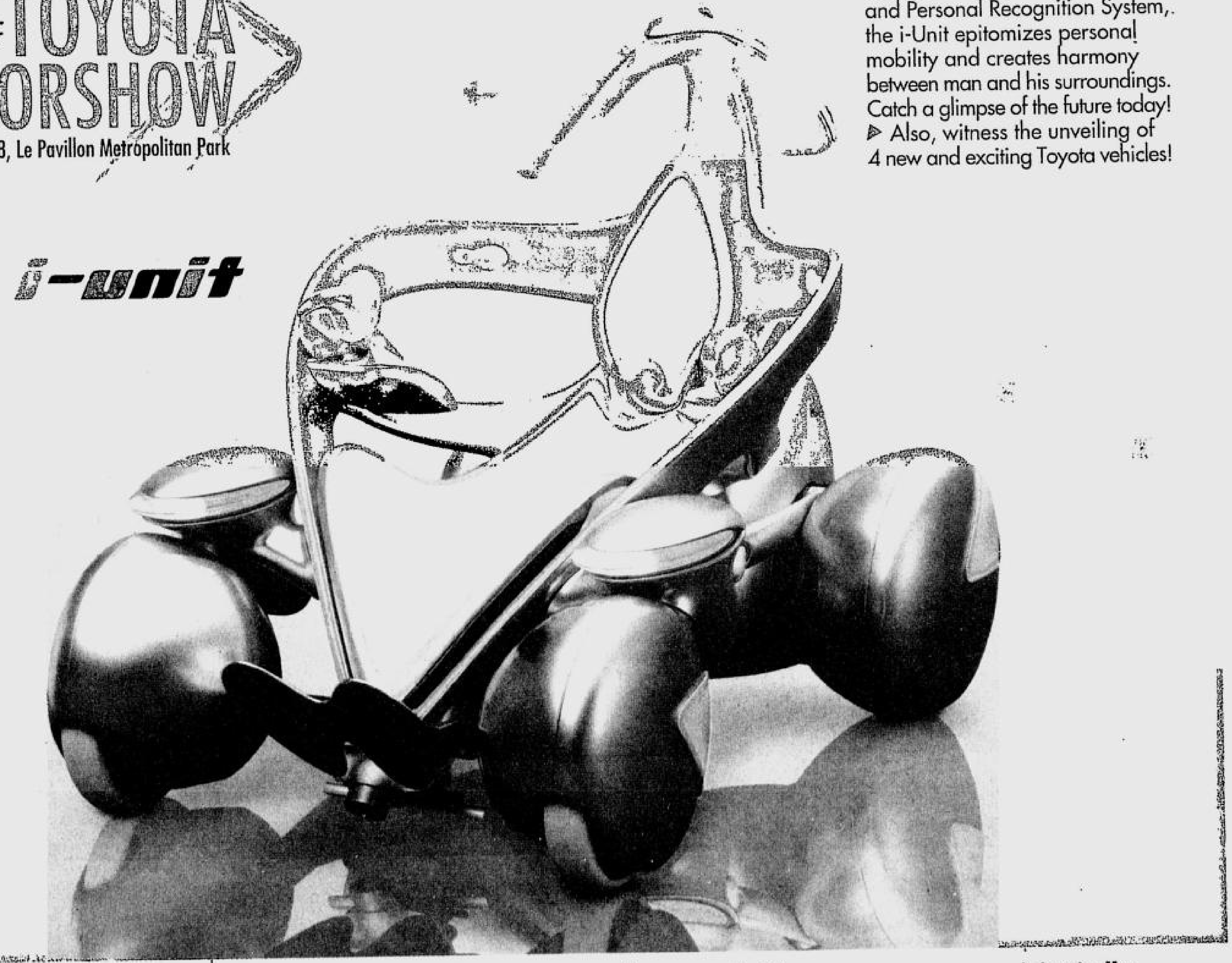

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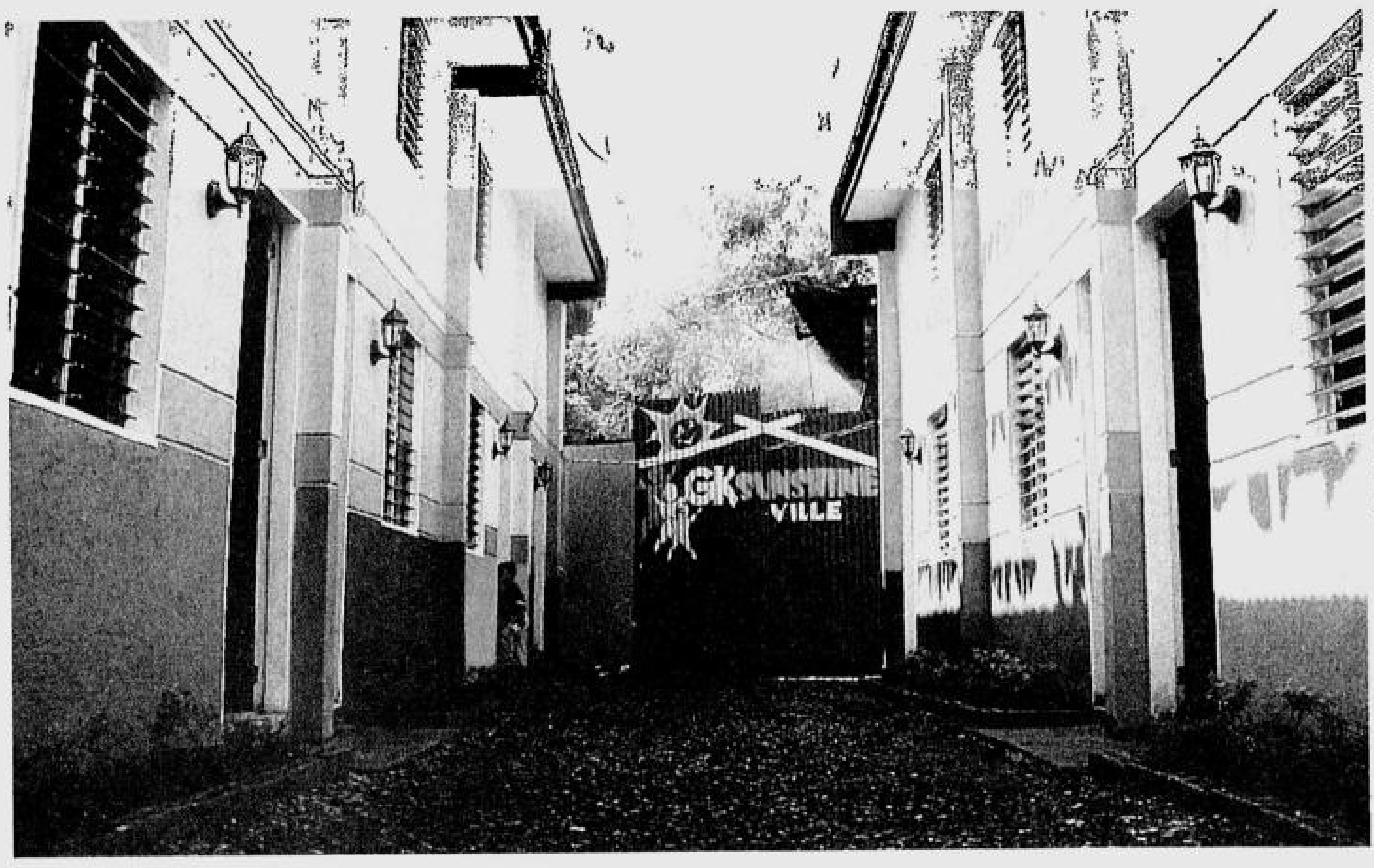
Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**



ANOTHER community that benefited from the Gawad Kalinga movement is this one (left) located in BF Resort, Las Piñas. The GK Sunshineville is the third community that insurance giant Insular Life has sponsored in three years, this time, turning over nine units to its beneficiary families who also helped in the construction (above) of the units.

Gawad Kalinga communities to be 'tourist-ready villages'

By Tessa R. Salazar

WITH THE FIRST GRAND event of Gawad Kalinga communities to happen from Oct. 6 to 8 at the Mall of Asia, the emerging challenge for township and property developments using the GK format is how to make GK shelters tourist-ready villages as well.

Tourists-for-a-cause and youth groups from 34 countries dropped by the GK villages recently to learn for themselves how and why the villages "clicked" and to assess if these same villages could suit them in their future visits to the country.

GK volunteers present during the visit said, however, that they were not looking to build resort-type communities but visitor-friendly structures that could be upgraded to accommodate tourists who would like to stay for some time.

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Pura Vida

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

STRESS IS PROBABLY THE MOST pervading scourge of modern man's daily life. Very recently I was fortunate enough to spend some time away from my otherwise "usually stressful" environment. I flew to a remote seaside village in Costa Rica, set amid verdant tropical greenery where iguanas and scarlet macaws are as humdrum a sight as our local *butiki* and *maya* in Manila.

In this corner of the world, the natives are as laid back as perpetual vacationers; the daily pace is easygoing like a samba. The weather is balmy, with gentle afternoon showers. The flowers and fruits on the hillside are just right for the picking. Aah! "¡Pura Vida!" or "pure life." This local saying sums up the lifestyle of the people who live here, much like that popular Disney catchphrase, "Hakuna matata," which means "no worries."

A place like this can cleanse your body and spirit of most, if not all, of your worries, infusing it with an invigorating breath of pure life. The serenity, broken only by birdcall and breeze, can make you think clearly. Probably, the only apprehension I experienced during my two-week stay was from thinking of my imminent return to city life.

My host in this sleepy coastal town of Herradura was my cousin, Lyn Santiago. He traded his career in Toronto for a simpler life here. He wanted to get away from the daily routine of getting up in the morning and braving the snow half of the year just to get to work on time. He admits that relocating to a new country and starting afresh is no picnic but he has no regrets.

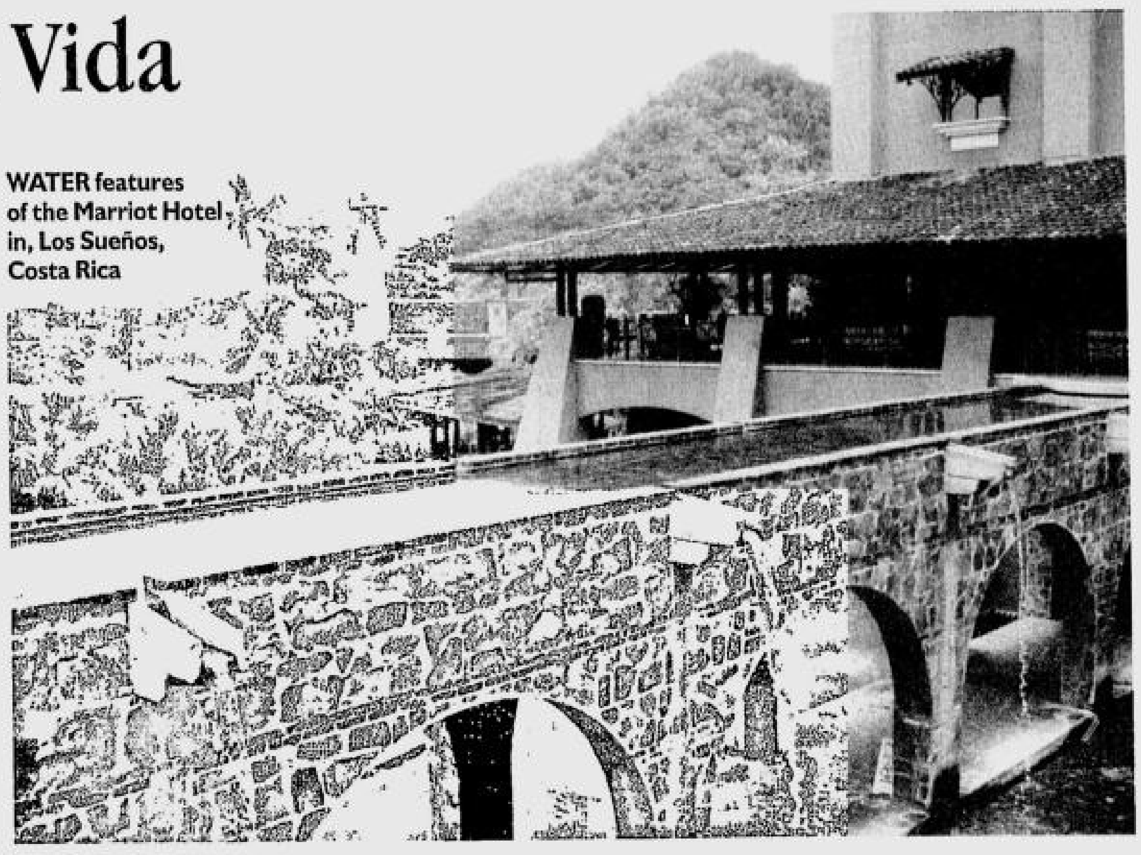
Past life

When he found this idyllic spot, he took the risk. He invested his life savings and started anew. He claims that the best part is living away from a cutthroat environment where spending and overspending are the way of life, where people are conscious about your social status, the kind of car you drive, the clothes you wear, or the house you live in. In contrast, this place makes you realize that there are really very few things you need to own in order to live comfortably.

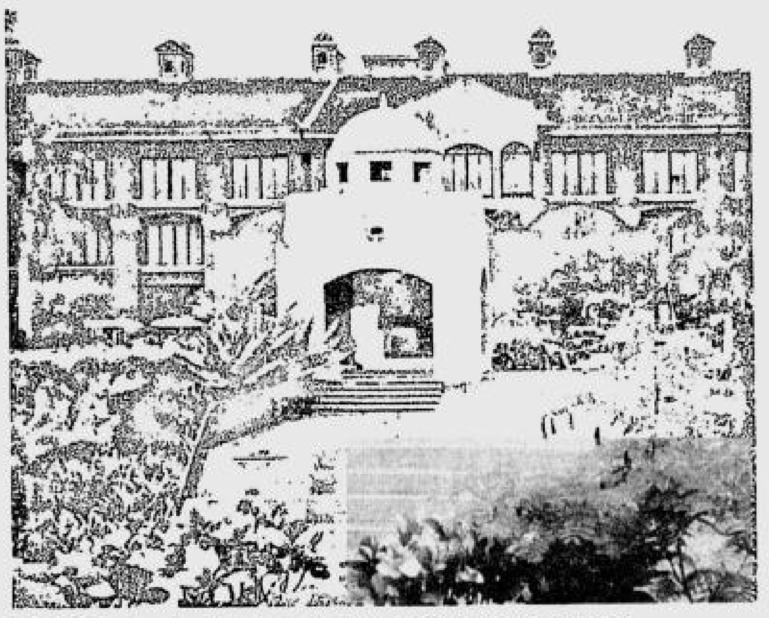
In that past life, he has known people who collect houses and properties but never actually use them. They spend a fortune on maintenance and upkeep, so they have to ensure that they work and earn enough to cover those expenses. Sadly, this ultimately translates to less time for themselves and their families. It is a vicious cycle that must be broken if you want to keep your sanity, if not your meaningful relationships.

Wellness community

At the heart of my visit is my wise cousin's plan of developing his new-found haven into a wellness community. The site is located 400 meters above sea level, in the middle of a lush rainforest, with plateaus overlooking the sea.



WATER features of the Marriot Hotel in, Los Sueños, Costa Rica



FAÇADE showing the dome features of the Marriot Hotel

The concept is to leave as much of the existing landscape untouched. Only a few elements will be added to make one's stay comfortable and safe. The objective is for the guest to appreciate the surroundings more and to enhance the tranquil experience. In these parts, ecology is so sensitive that the only way to maintain the beautiful balance is if you let nature take the lead and fully respect her dictates.

The structures then must be of natural materials, but durable enough to withstand the tropical clime. Pathways and living areas must be cleared, but not denuded. Receptacles for trash and wastes must be securely contained and regularly cleaned. Power and water machinery must be environment-friendly, as well as be inconspicuous. At the same time, the guest areas must be made relatively safe from wild animals and insects, without denying the people from appreciating the outdoors.

Other considerations

Landmarks and helpful signs, while clear and visible, must be discreet and must blend with the surroundings. Staff areas must be clean and secure, but shielded sufficiently to minimize cooking odors, regular noise, and the clutter of storage and busy working spaces. There are several other considerations that must go into planning the wellness community, but in every decision, nature must have her voice heard. Carving out a niche for man to enjoy her pristine beauty is important—the value to man's health and spirit immeasurable—but allowing Nature to thrive around the intrusion is just as precious and is only as it should be.

In the end of my hiatus, I realized a wealth of things. I was glad to know that there are still pockets of heaven out there waiting to be discovered, unchartered, unrated, but infinitely satisfying. I found out that there is a better quality of life possible for the one who truly desires and seeks a change. I discerned that appreciating and living with nature does not mean subduing or taming her. And most solemnly, I learned that a couple of weeks is not enough time to build a wellness center!

W. H. TAFT RESIDENCES

The newest comfort, luxury hub in Manila

ALL PLANS METICULOUSLY LAID OUT, THE timeline properly arranged and the entire team geared up and more than ready to go—the wait for the newest comfort and luxury hub in Manila is definitely over. Brace up as Taft Avenue witness the rise of a new landmark.

As the hot spot of various educational institutions like De La Salle University, College of St. Benilde and St. Scholastica, home of several business establishments that make the Malate area a busy commercial district, and the site of important government offices such as the Department of Justice and Supreme Court, Taft Avenue is definitely the busiest street in Manila. Because people of varying ages flock this eventful avenue every day to tread their hectic schedules, Philtown Properties felt the need to provide quality residences to students and young professionals that abound the area.

Unique structure

Foreseen to stand out among the buildings on Taft Avenue, W. H. Taft Residences' unique structure is sure to build a strong identity. To cut above the rest, it will be customized to fit the varying lifestyles of the people who choose to live comfortably and luxuriously. Philtown executives boast that the building's typology will distinguish the new project with variations, making the unit designs irregular and suited for every client's palette.

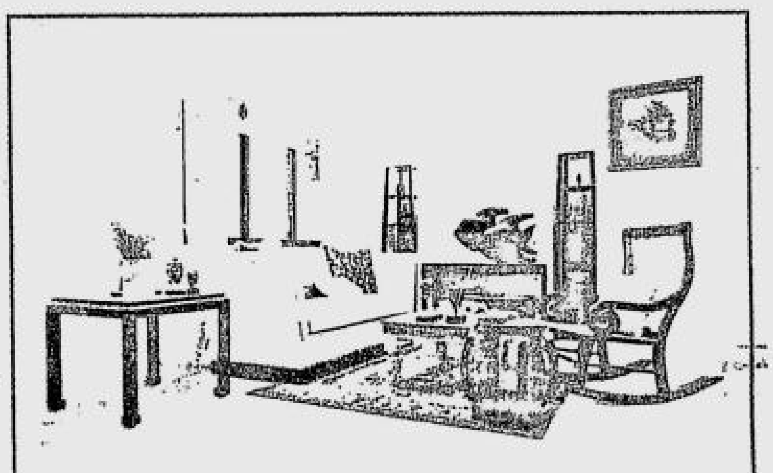
The façade of the building will also be designed to produce more shadows that will help keep the area enclosed cool. The rooftop will be a small park and the ground floor will house a café and several retail stores which will give a sense of a complete community within the residential tower.

Featured amenities

Automatic sprinkler systems for all units, an overhead water tank and underground cistern for ample water supply, standby powers for selected common areas and, most especially, wireless Internet access are just among the featured amenities.

Residents may also enjoy a leisure dip in the swimming pool and a refreshing scenery that a full view of De La Salle University's soccer field can offer. There will also be more glass per unit so that owners can save on electricity and consume less energy.

With W. H. Taft Residences, the comforts of home will always be at hand. For more information, call 818-2330, 890-5712 to 14, 818-1723, 818-1977 or 818-1266, or e-mail at sales@philtown.net.



CONDO MODEL UNITS READY FOR VIEWING

DMCI Homes' Bali-inspired resort-residential enclave, Raya Garden Condominiums, is an exclusive community that offers five medium-rise buildings and two towers. Now ready for viewing are its standard model and tandem units. Available through flexible and easy payment schemes, the project is located on Km 14 West Service Road, Merville, Parañaque City. For scheduled viewing, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

SM City Lipa now open

SM CITY LIPA, THE 27TH SM SUPERMALL, yesterday opened its doors to the public.

Located on a one-hectare property on Ayala Highway in Lipa City, the two-level 77,682 square meter supermall is SM's second shopping center in Batangas, the first being SM City Batangas.

Innovative design

SM City Lipa brings great shopping, leisure and entertainment—the SM way—to this rapidly developing city. The mall's innovative design elements likewise makes it a landmark in the city. The barcode, which traditionally reflects the price of merchandise, significantly becomes a key design theme in SM City Lipa's façade, as well as in the neon lights of the cinema. Skylights and trees in the atrium enhance the beauty of the mall.

Great shopping begins with the trendsetting and innovative SM Department Store, and the SM Supermarket, with its superb selections of fresh foodstuff, groceries, and Bonus items, its house brand. SM mainstays scheduled to open include SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware and the Surplus Shop. The mall will also have fashion boutiques, home stores, shoe stores, bookstores and novelty stores. It will also have service outlets and techie stores like computer stores, Internet cafés, and telecom stores.

SM CITY Lipa

Good food

Shoppers will have a lot of eating out options: Good food ... fast at the SM Food Court ... international fast-food chains like McDonald's, KFC, Pizza Hut, Yellow Cab, Go Nuts Donuts and Mr. Donut ... and popular local outlets like Jollibee, Chowking, Greenwich, Andok's Litson, and Goldilocks.

The mall will also have specialty restaurants like Flavours of China, Gerry's Grill, Karate Kid, May Sa Rang Restaurant and Tokyo Tokyo.

SM City Lipa will have four state of the art cinemas as well as 1,295 parking slots for customer convenience.

SM City Lipa's design team includes Design Associates, design architect; Robert Carag Ong and Associates, architects of record; DA Abcede and Associates, project manager; and Monolith Construction and Development Corp., general contractor.

Arts, design tilt . . .

From page B2-4

and quality construction.

Built structure required

While the architecture category requires a built structure of single-detached residence in the Philippines, completed and occupied for at least one year, the interior design category requires a conceptual work output.

Grand prize winners Peña and Sy (along with the other category winners) received P200,000 plus trophy each.

Internationally renowned architect Francisco Mañosa chaired the architecture category with architects Jose Siao Ling, Philip Recto and Josefina Ramos and Commissioner Avelina de la Res as board members while the Interior Design category was chaired by Jose Maria Hubilla with Gerry Contreras, Thelma Sioson San Juan, Susan Tuason and Leo Almeria as board members.

It's all about . . .

From page B2-3

the Westgrove Plaza and Rustan's are easily accessible from Ayala Westgrove Heights.

As an Ayala Land Premier development, Ayala Westgrove Heights is sure to provide residents true value for their investment. As the new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land, Ayala Land Premier offers its residents security, ultimate comfort, and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses. With its superior customer care and property management, Ayala Land Premier ensures exclusivity and value over time.

For further information about Ayala Westgrove Heights, please call 728-7000, or log on to www.ayalalandpremier.com, or email ask@ayalaland-premier.com.

Gawad Kalinga communities to be tourist-ready villages'

From page B2-1

Build event

Jose Ma. Montelibano, GK volunteer and head of special projects, added that GK is a "build event," particularly for tourists to experience building houses Habitat for Humanity-style.

Many tour groups now include in their itineraries house-building experiences at GK communities. Some recent tour groups have been Youth for Peace and Mr and Ms Universities.

"They (tourists) stay there, but the conditions there would not be your normal tourist areas, they could be considered a tourism adventure or 'off-the-beaten path,'" Montelibano notes.

He added that the GK experience is an "unconventional but fun trip" that teaches tourists, especially children, how the poor live and guides how the tourists themselves can help.

In the GK build experience setup, visitors and tourists construct houses with the families for up to a week, during which time relationships between involved parties are expected to develop. The build experience, Montelibano says, has been done for many visiting groups from America, Canada and Australia.

"Our preparation is for accepting tourists with a cause. That cause is about people and the environment in practical terms. This is where our path is going."

The build experience with tourists is part of the Sining Kultura drive of GK showcasing the best in the Filipino.

Unforgettable experience

Montelibano added that what makes the GK experience unforgettable is the sight of squalor and a piece of heaven rising beside it. "One will see how a home starts from scratch." GK villages, such as those in Baseco, are set in slum areas that have not yet been rebuilt and renovated—an unusual site of contrast where rebuilding happens amid a slum area. "If you see Baseco, where there are thousands of families, the GK spot for just a thousand families stands out."

INQUIRER Property reported last month that GK projects reverse the many adverse consequences socioeconomic depression has caused many slum communities in the country, primarily in land values.

GK believes that property values are not just based on infrastructure or esthetics but also on the improvement of peace and order. Property values along slum areas get pushed down even further not only because of the unsightliness of the houses but also of the area's peace and order situation.

GK housing development programs have built more than 20,000 homes nationwide, and right now 2,000 more are being constructed.

"GK 777" stands for the group's target of 700,000 homes in 7,000 communities in seven years. GK became public in October 2003.

The group hopes to finish between 5,000 and 10,000 more houses by end 2006.

It's all about fitness at Ayala Westgrove Heights

NELSON Asuncion with badminton champs Kennivic and Kenny Asuncion.

RESIDENTS CAN NOW ENJOY MORE fun fitness activities with the launch of the badminton and tennis courts at Ayala Westgrove Heights' new sports center. The third clubhouse in the sprawling village developed by Ayala Land Premier, the sports center offers badminton and tennis enthusiasts with premium playing courts for their enjoyment.

A special Mass was held to celebrate the completion of the sports facilities, followed by the blessing of both the tennis and badminton courts. A sumptuous buffet lunch was laid out for residents and guests, who also signed up to try out the new courts.

Guests were also treated to a free foot spa at the Wellness area, while children had a grand time playing darts and basketball in the special play area set up. Ayala Land Premier sales specialists were also on hand to show prospective clients around the village.

The highlight of the launch was the exhibition match held by tennis greats Dyan and Jackie Castillejo, and badminton whiz kids and national champions Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion. The four also held a special tennis and badminton clinic for enthusiasts, teaching even the kids the proper form and stance and giving tips on playing the games.

Exhibition launch

With the completion of the sports facilities, residents of Ayala Westgrove Heights can indulge their love of tennis and badminton rain or shine. Perfect for lawn tennis, the huge indoor grass court is well-lighted so tennis fans can play well into the night.

The badminton court, on the other hand, is large enough to accommodate 3 games played simultaneously. The playing surface is covered with special sports flooring that provides safety without compromising performance.

Aside from the badminton and tennis courts, as well as the Wellness Center and function rooms, Ayala Westgrove Heights' residents can also look forward to other enhancements to the new sports center. With plans for a bowling alley, billiard hall and other facilities, the center will surely be a haven for fun activities to boost residents' health and fitness.

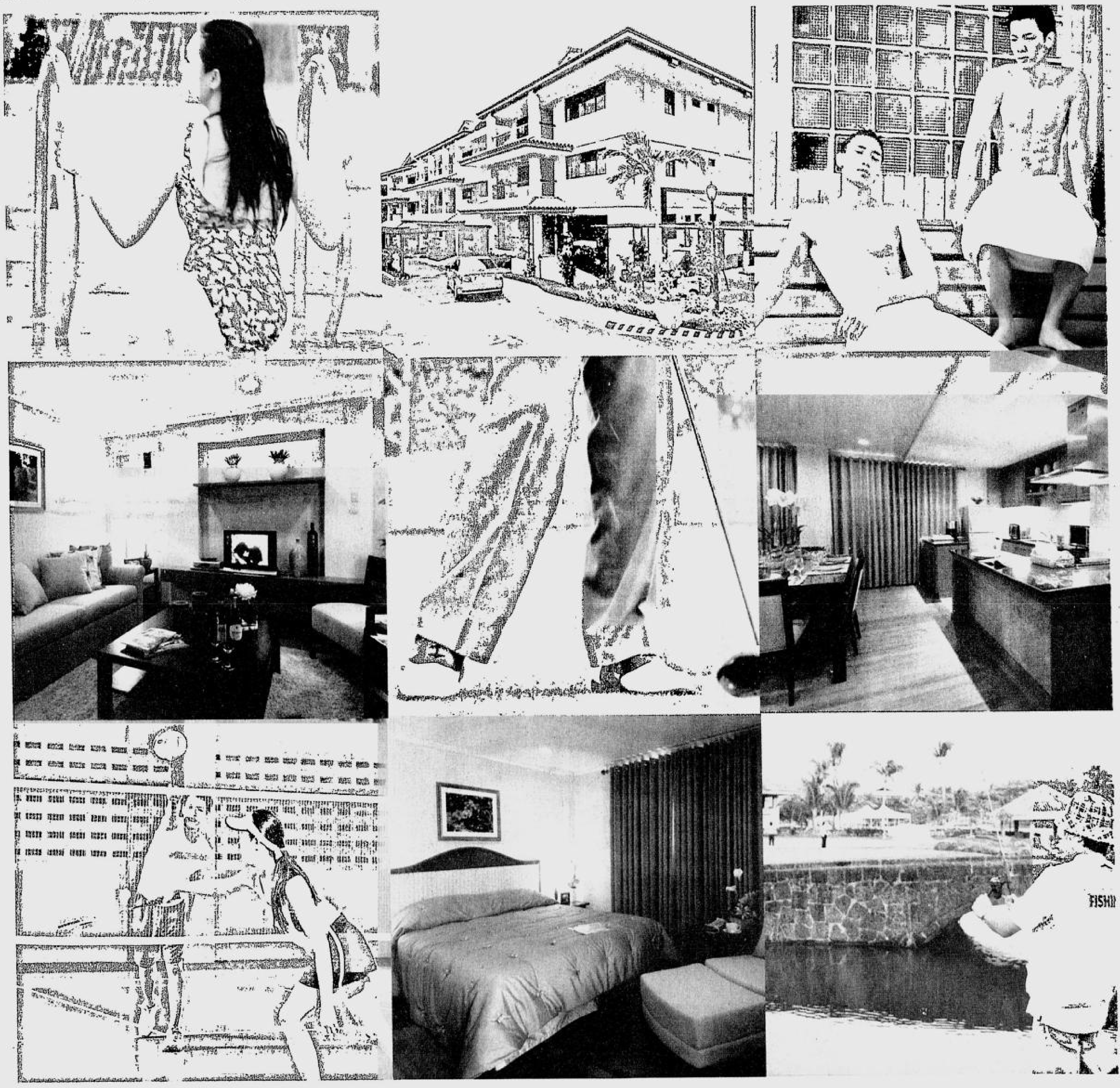
The new sports complex is definitely an exciting addition to Ayala Westgrove Heights, a suburban haven touted as the Next Big Thing after Ayala Alabang. Located in Silang, Cavite, Ayala Westgrove Heights is a fully integrated and masterplanned community that promises a quiet suburban lifestyle while giving access to modern life's conveniences.

Built in what was originally a mango orchard, Ayala Westgrove Heights offers its residents with a variety of environment-friendly attractions like the Central Park with its lagoons, fishing decks and gazebos, the mango orchard, and the Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, which is home to over 90 species of birds. Designed to take advantage of the land's natural terrain, homes in the sprawling village also present grand vistas of Laguna de Bay, Mount Makiling, and Tagaytay.

Various amenities are also available right inside the village. Aside from the sports center, Ayala Westgrove Heights also has the main clubhouse where residents can enjoy such facilities as swimming pools, jacuzzi, tennis court, indoor and outdoor basketball courts and social hall. The Kidsgrove, a clubhouse designed especially for children, boasts of a junior-size basketball court, kiddie pool, indoor toddler room, and interactive wet and dry play areas.

Outside the village, modern conveniences are also within reach of Ayala Westgrove Heights residents. Top educational institutions such as St. Scholastica's College–Westgrove, De La Salle-Canlubang and Don Bosco, business establishments like Ayala Land's Laguna Technopark, and shopping areas such as

IT'S/ B2-2



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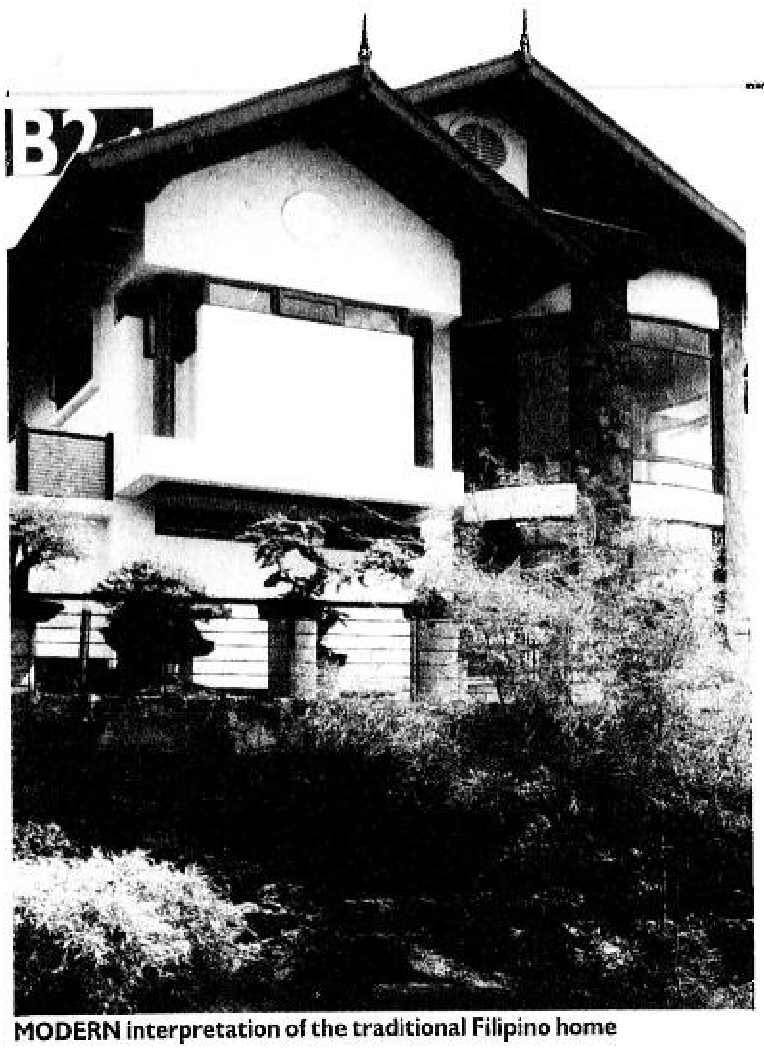
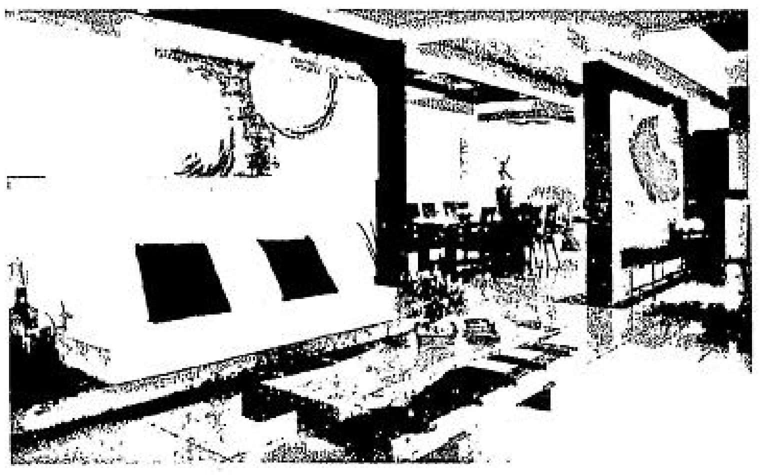
Arts, design tilt yields fresh crop of talents



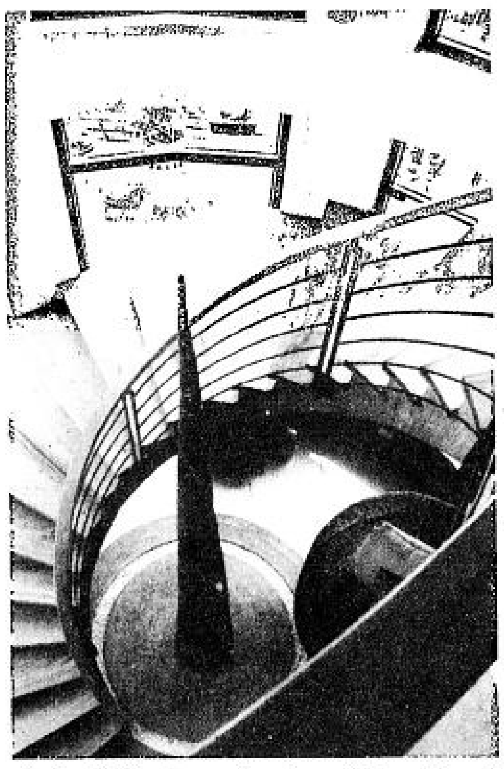
MODERN interpretation of the traditional Filipino home

IT USED TO BE known as the Young Painters' Annual, which has launched the careers of numerous Filipino painters since 1984. Two years ago, its organizer, the Metrobank Foundation Inc. expanded the annual search to include sculpture, architecture and interior design categories and aptly renamed it the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence (MADE) competition.



THE EXTENSIVE use of native crafts takes us back to our roots

TIMBER of different textures and colors dominate



With new partners the Philippine Institute of Interior Designers, United Architects of the Philippines, developer Federal Land and design magazine BluPrint, the Metrobank Foundation said the competition now aims to provide a venue for creative expressions of young talented artists and designers.

"Metrobank Foundation's commitment to its objective of nurturing the artistic soul of the young Filipinos this year has produced four young talented painters, two sculptors, two interior designers, and an architect who were chosen from close to 400 contestants from around the country," Metrobank Foundation EVP and executive director Aniceto "Chito" Sobrepeña said.

Never failed to impress

This year's winners never failed to impress the judges who are distinguished personalities in the art scene.

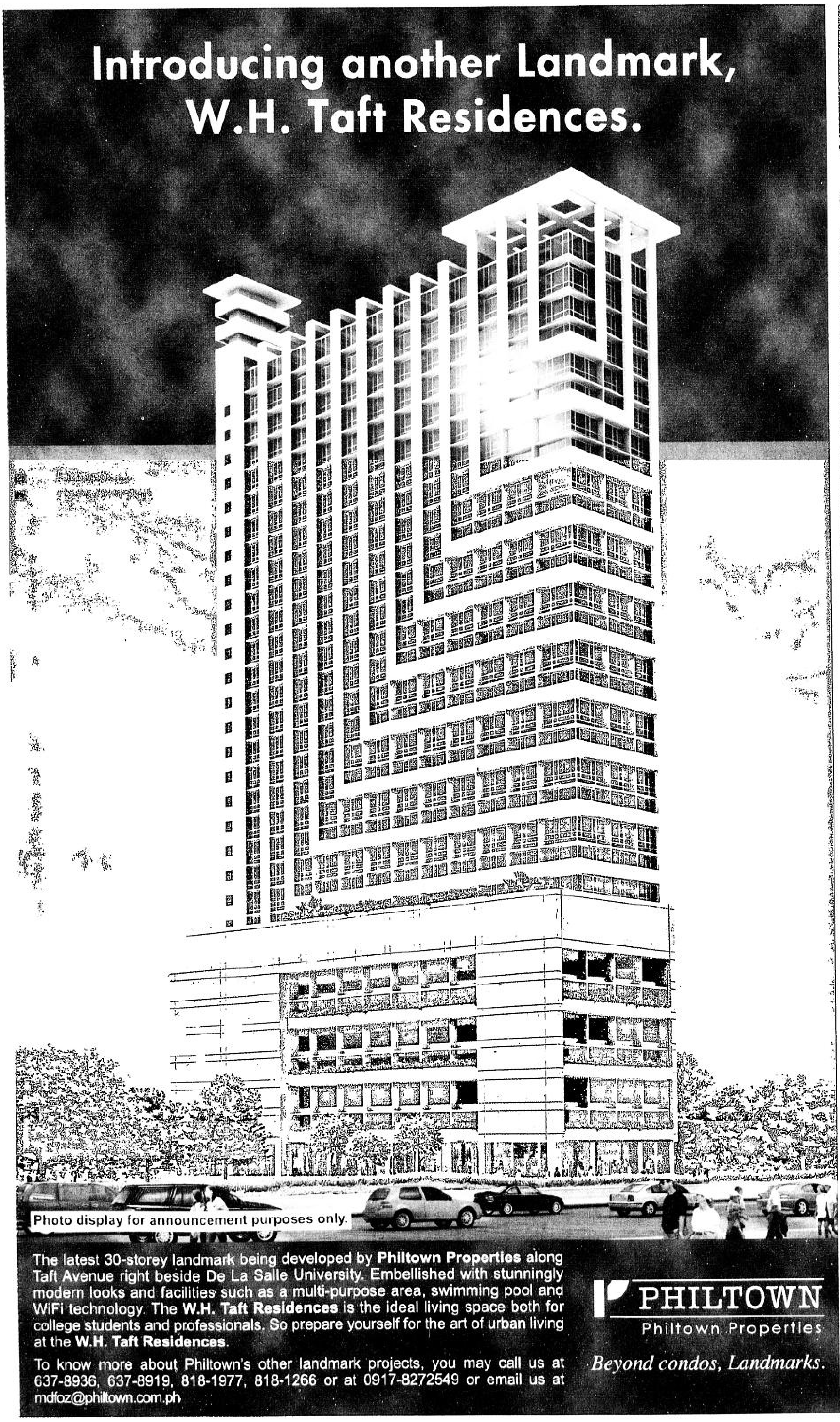
Leading this year's batch is architect Michael Peña for his work located in St. Ignatius Village Quezon City.

His "Modern Filipino House" is a fresh interpretation of the traditional Filipino house and made extensive use of timber and native crafts.

Jasmine O'yek Sy for her work titled "The Sustainable Haybol" won the grand prize in the Interior Design category.

Sy's winning entry demonstrates how efficient use of space could make one's life easier, more economical and more enjoyable: the more space conserved, the more options for details, upgraded features, better materials

ARTS/ B2-2



Introducing another Landmark, W.H. Taft Residences.

Photo display for announcement purposes only.

The latest 30-storey landmark being developed by **Philtown Properties** along Taft Avenue right beside De La Salle University. Embellished with stunningly modern looks and facilities such as a multi-purpose area, swimming pool and WiFi technology. The **W.H. Taft Residences** is the ideal living space both for college students and professionals. So prepare yourself for the art of urban living at the **W.H. Taft Residences**.

To know more about Philtown's other landmark projects, you may call us at 637-8936, 637-8919, 818-1977, 818-1266 or at 0917-8272549 or email us at mdfoz@philtown.com.ph

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Super! Countdown
93 days 'til Super! X'mas!

Zooper

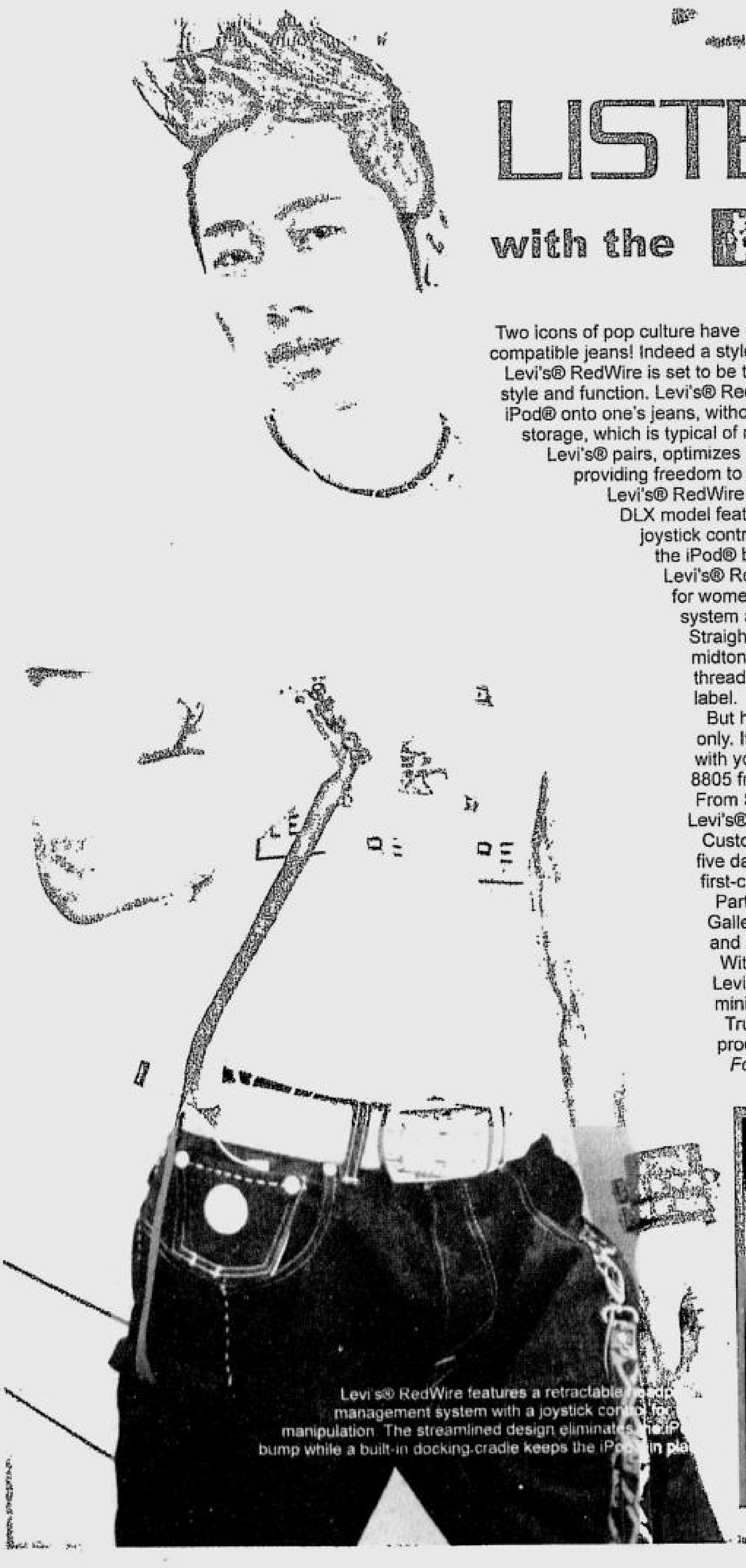
Wild on!
Miguel Zubiri page C4
Out of Africa

Jungle fever!
Party animals at the Manila Zoo
page C3

PBA cagers unleash their inner lions
page D1

Newest addition to the food chain
Mc Do's Rice burger!
page C2

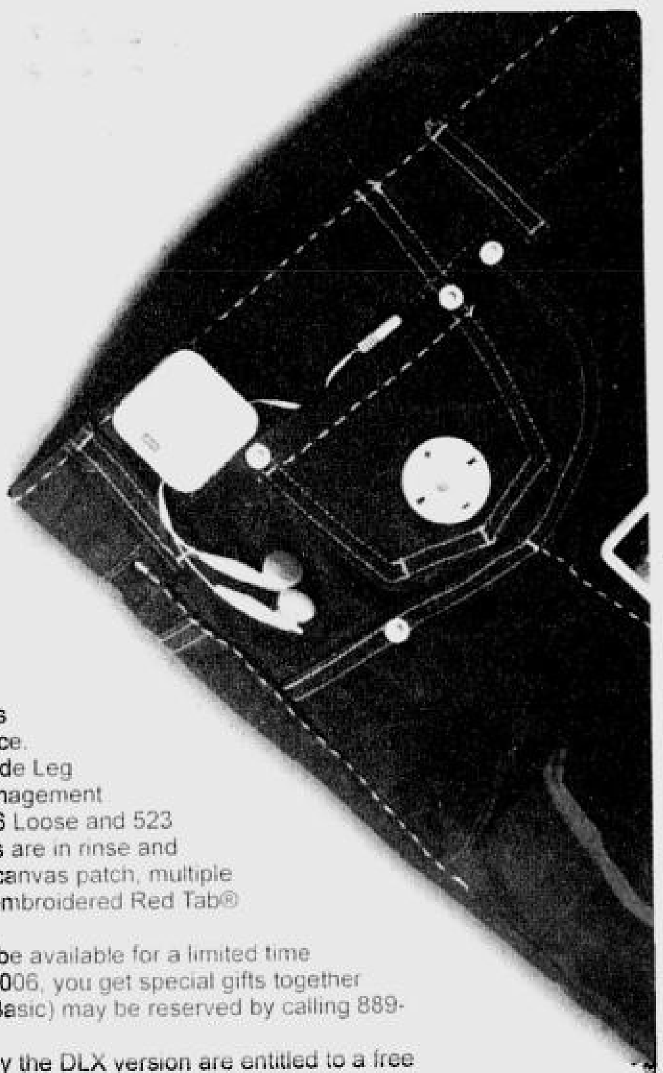
Photography: MIGS ZUBIRI
Photo Exhibit at OWG La Fuerza Plaza II Chino Roces Avenue corner Sabio street, Makati City. Exhibit running until Sept. 26 for the benefit of the Bukidnon Deer Park and Rescue Center



Levi's® RedWire features a retractable headphone management system with a joystick control for easy manipulation. The streamlined design eliminates the iPod bump while a built-in docking cradle keeps the iPod in place.

LISTEN UP!

with the REDWIRE DLX



Two icons of pop culture have united to create Levi's® RedWire, the first iPod® compatible jeans! Indeed a style and music lover's ultimate fashion must-have!

Levi's® RedWire is set to be the hottest item this season – a perfect marriage of style and function. Levi's® RedWire is especially designed to incorporate the iPod® onto one's jeans, without worrying about difficult access, security, or bulky storage, which is typical of regular front pockets. Levi's® RedWire, like all Levi's® pairs, optimizes comfort while donning a youthful, sexy look while providing freedom to enjoy one's fave tunes.

Levi's® RedWire is available in Deluxe [DLX] and Basic models. The DLX model features a retractable headphone management system with a joystick control for easy manipulation. The streamlined design eliminates the iPod® bump while a built-in docking cradle keeps the iPod® in place.

Levi's® RedWire DLX is available in DLX Loose for men and DLX Wide Leg for women. The Basic version features a retractable headphone management system and a especially-designed iPod pocket. It's available in 516 Loose and 523 Straight cut options for guys, and 585 Loose cut for girls. Finishes are in rinse and midtone for guys, and rinse for girls. Sundries are in white with a canvas patch, multiple threads and stab stitch, fly button, top button and rivets, plus an embroidered Red Tab® label.

But hear this! Levi's® RedWire are in limited quantities and will be available for a limited time only. If you reserve a pair between September 15 to October 2, 2006, you get special gifts together with your RedWire purchases. Levi's® RedWire Jeans (DLX or Basic) may be reserved by calling 889-8805 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

From September 15 to October 2 only, those who reserve and buy the DLX version are entitled to a free Levi's® RedWire shirt and belt, or a free Levi's® RedWire shirt for the Basic version.

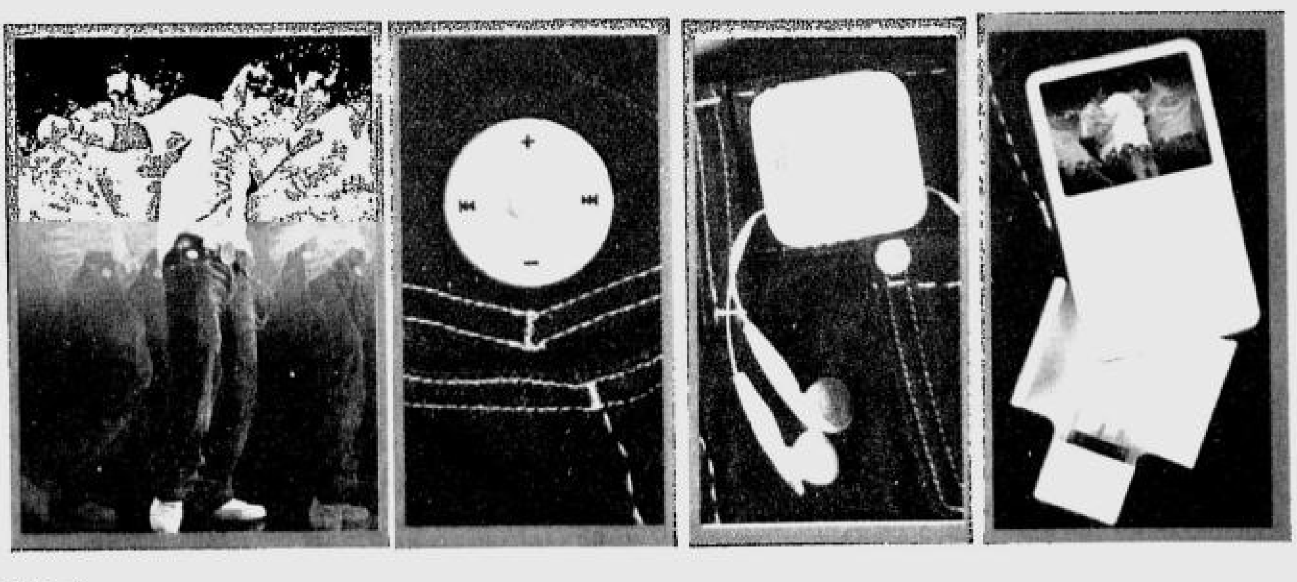
Customers can pick up their reserved orders from a Levi's® Store of their choice. Customers are likewise given five days to pick-up reserved orders or orders will be cancelled. This promo is open to all, but reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. So hurry up!

Participating Levi's® Stores include: Alabang Town Center, Robinson's Place Ermita, Festival Mall, Robinson's Galleria, Power Plant Mall, Glorietta 2, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, SM Mall of Asia, and Gateway Mall and Music One Greenbelt.

With only 40 pieces of the RedWire DLX version and 500 pieces of the RedWire Basic to be sold in the Philippines, Levi's® RedWire is definitely "the" piece of the season, bringing together the state-of-the-art technology and signature minimalist design of iPod® and the iconic style of Levi's ®.

True to its commitment to innovation and jeanswear leadership, Levi's® RedWire is yet another breakthrough in product design and style…as only Levi's® can pioneer!

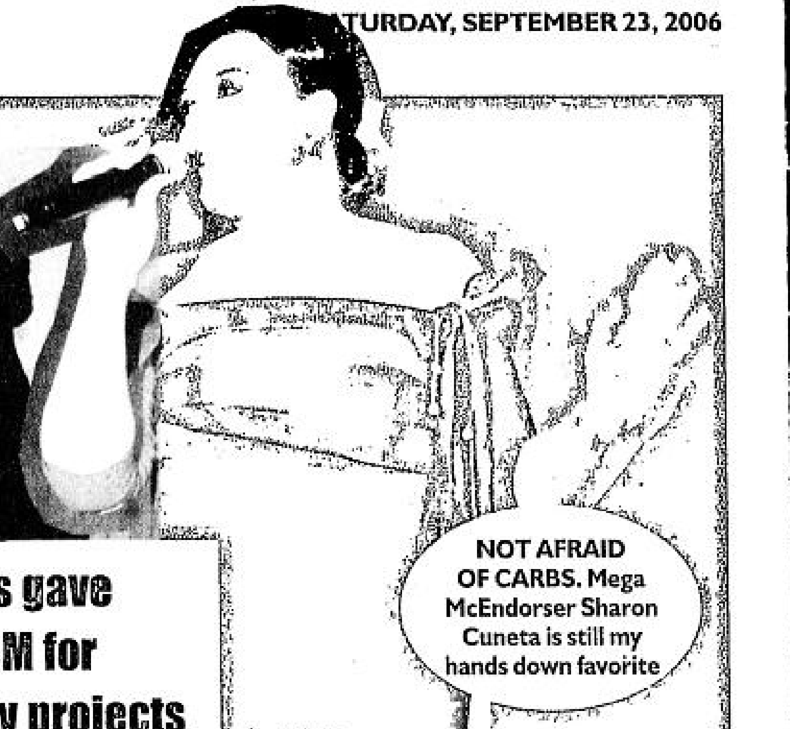
For more information please call 889-8805 or visit www.levi.com.ph.



BETTER THAN BOCELLI. George Yang, tenore drammatico

WE ARE MC FAMILY. Let's all sing praises for the arrival of McDo's rice burger! R-I-C-E!

McDonald's Philippines gave a giant check worth P3M for the foundation's worthy projects



NOT AFRAID OF CARBS. Mega McEndorser Sharon Cuneta is still my hands down favorite

The rice and rise of Mc George

MC MUSES. Belles of the charity ball Cindy Yang and Pops Fernandez

Photos by Tim Yap using Kodak V705.
Additional photos by Rudy Esperas

Tim Yap

AS I WRITE THIS PIECE, MY tongue has just savored the sensations of McDonald's new rice burger. I am looking at my sleek new gadget, the red hot Acer Ferrari laptop, which complements my newly dyed hair (back to jet black, after seasons of platinum). To contrast with the speed of which technology and food trends are going, I put on my Bang and Olufsen CD rotation two musical compilations—Forever Yang and The Night is Yang.

Nope, the above-mentioned discs are not self-improvement voice manuals for Taoism, but close. These CDs were personal gifts from the man who introduced me to **Ronald McDonald**. Yes, after providing us with palate pleasers, **George Yang** has now decided to tickle our ears and serenade us with the gift of song.

25 years and every year I was a part of it. Just like its Mega endorser **Sharon Cuneta**, I've been very much a member of the McDonald's family. I think I was born with a fry in my mouth. Just like a lot of you, I eat it everyday—it's like home-cooked food to me. Even in the Super! head quarters, 8-McDo is on speed dial. On several occasions, I even celebrated my birthday bashes right smack center of Mc Play Place. There was also a time when I told myself that I wanted to be Ronald McDonald when I grow up. (Some people even think we look and dress alike.)

Food-full and fruitful

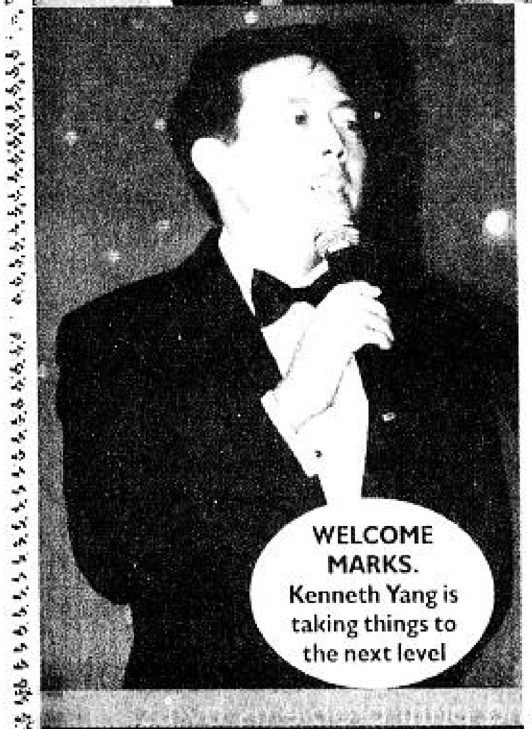
The Rizal ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La was the chosen venue for Uncle George's musical gala, and he sang, his unique way of telling the whole world, "Thank you! It's been 25 food-full and fruitful years since he brought the Mcfranchise to McPhilippines." But George did not stop at just singing for an audience, he decided to sing for a cause. That night's performance was for the benefit of the Ronald McDonald House Charities. That evening, McGeorge and eldest son **Kenneth Yang**, now the president and CEO of McDonald's Philippines, gave a giant check worth P3 million for the foundation's worthy projects.

Speaking of McKenneth, I must say (and I know this for a fact) that he has long been one low key charitable soul—quietly contributing to various causes and personally seeing to it that the kids of their foundation are well taken cared of, sans media attention. I have been given the pleasure of growing up within close periphery of this young man (through my effervescent "younger" sister **Cindy**) and I have long admired his quiet confidence and humble disposition. Indeed, Uncle George and Auntie **Kristine** (yes, she of Kristine's "diamonds are forever" fame) raised him well.

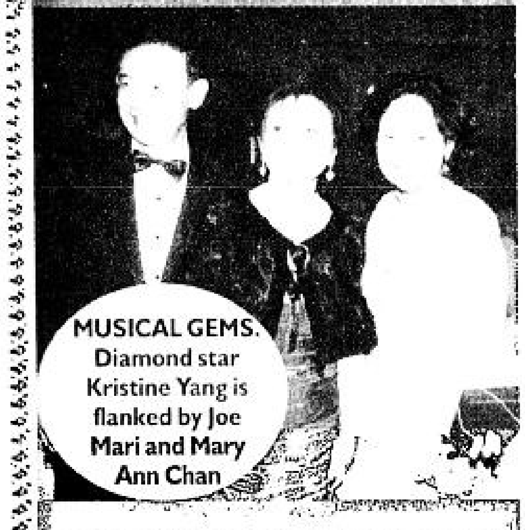
That night, McKenneth welcomed the guests and dispelled the notion that he was going to join his father in singing onstage.

Cindy and eldest daughter **Kay Yang** almost gave dad a standing ovation. Soon after the speech, George took the stage and set it ablaze with song. One crescendo after another, he struck a chord with his A-list audience—he was as hot as Happy Meals during lunch hour. The taipan who sings like **Bocelli** even had **Mother Lily Monteverde** accompanying him on the piano. Later, theater stalwarts and opera veterans joined pop superstars and mega endorsers to jam with McGeorge in song. Somehow, something was telling me that **Manny Pacquiao** was going to come out in the middle of the program. Good thing my hunch was wrong, and the star-studded charity show proceeded to pack its musical punch.

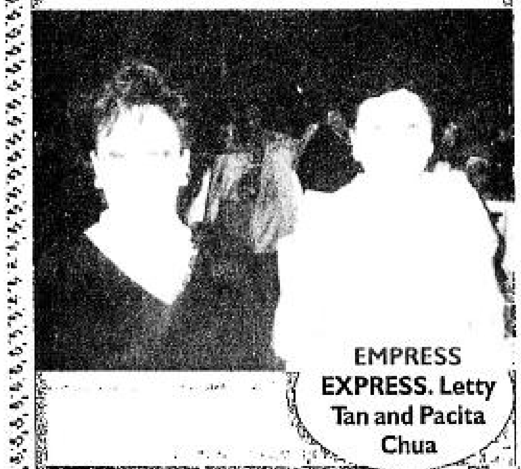
From "good times to great taste," "kita-kits," one thing's for sure—"love ko to!" Happy 25 years, and here's to more Super! years to come.



WELCOME MARKS. Kenneth Yang is taking things to the next level



MUSICAL GEMS. Diamond star Kristine Yang is flanked by Joe Mari and Mary Ann Chan

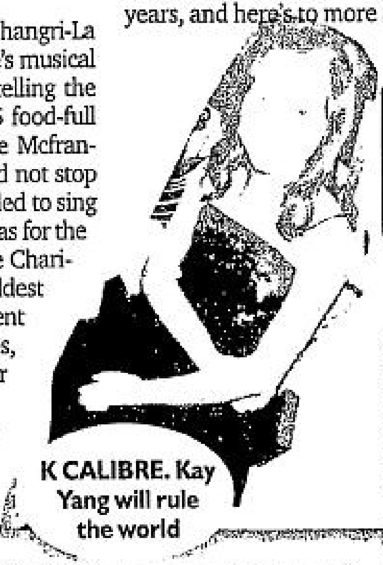


EMPRESS EXPRESS. Letty Tan and Pacita Chua

LOVE KO THREE. Tim Yap, Kevin Tan and Kenneth Yang

SWEET CHARITY. President and CEO Kenneth Yang gives a P3M check for the Ronald McDonald's House Charities

MC INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto



K CALIBRE. Kay Yang will rule the world

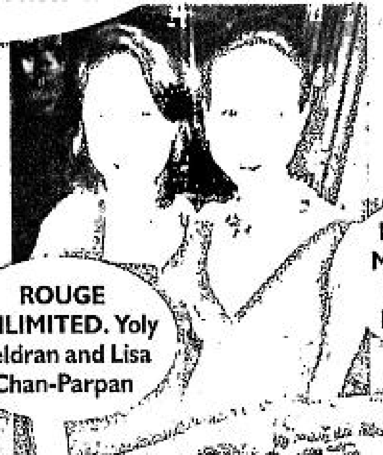
PART OF THE FAMILY. Michelle Yap, Cindy Yang, Shirley Bitong, my beloved mom Benita Yap with long lost daughter Tessa Prieto-Valdes

K-ABAYANS. Kristine Yang with Arlene de Castro

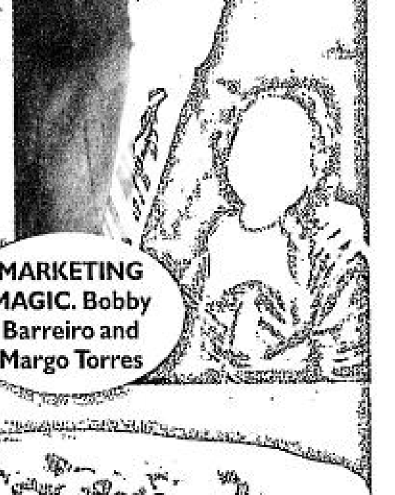
MCMEGA WORLD. Andrew Tan with Kat de Castro-Cruz

LEGISLATIVE BURGER. Senators Dick Gordon and Kiko Pangilinan

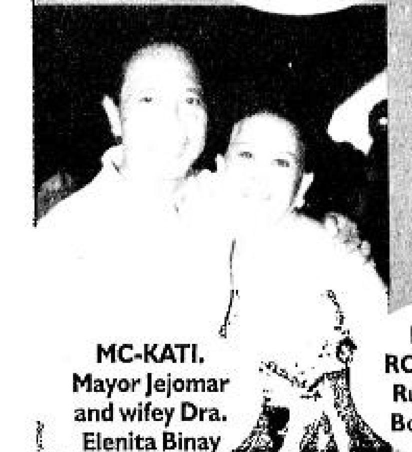
MOTHER Lily Monteverde, pianist



ROUGE UNLIMITED. Yoly Celdran and Lisa Chan-Parpan



MARKETING MAGIC. Bobby Barreiro and Margo Torres

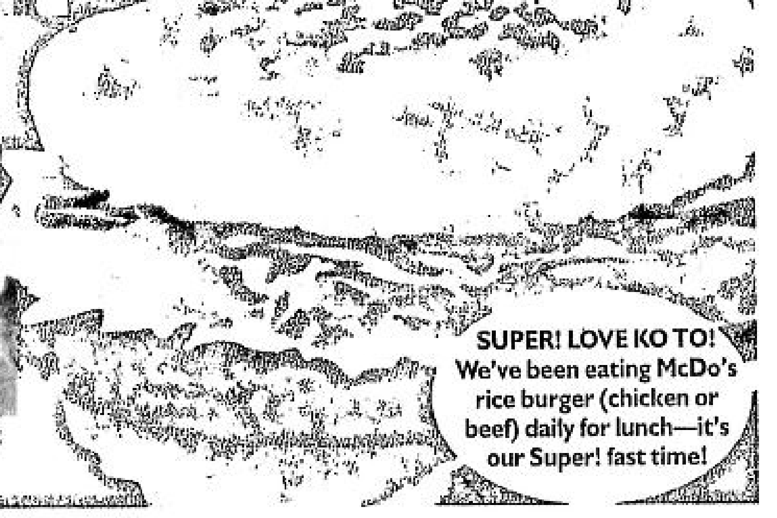


MC-KATI. Mayor Jejomar and wifey Dra. Elenita Binay

RADIO ROMANCE. Ruthie and Bobet Vera

ADVERTISING A-LIST. Teeny Gozum-Gonzales and Susan Dimacali

PR POWER SET. Bonjin Bolinao and Mito de Joya



SUPER! LOVE KO TO! We've been eating McDo's rice burger (chicken or beef) daily for lunch—it's our Super! fast time!

A Wild night for Wildlife

24/7

Paolo R. Reyes · Janine Cuenca-Dario

WHEN 24/7 SAT DOWN with runway star Ornusa Cadness for its September issue cover story, the popular party girl quipped, "Wouldn't it be fun if somebody tried organizing an event that was out of character? Like a party in some really peculiar place."

Ornusa will probably get her wish granted tomorrow. The creative folks at Soundsgood (the same organizers behind the recent Groove rave at the Pasig Ice Plant) invites you to "unleash your inner party animal," as they bring in a German DJ and generous kegs of beer for X-Community, a jungle-themed underground party at the Manila Zoo [Quirino Avenue corner Mabini Street, Malate, Manila] on Sunday, Sept. 24, from 5 to 10 p.m.

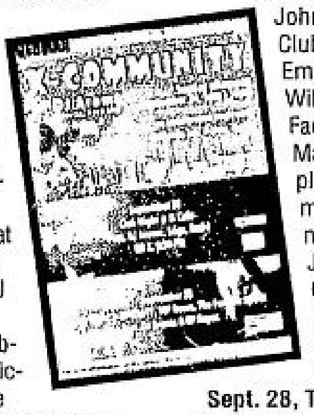
The Berlin-based sonic mixtress Aroma (www.djaroma.de), a regular performer in her country's much-hyped Loveparade, is the resident DJ of Mandarine Lounge in Munich and Berlin's Matrix and Ostgut. She will man the decks alongside French DJ Hallex.M (www.rainbowmusic.com) and homegrown spinlord DJ Edge.

Don't let Sunday's lazy vibe get the better of you, since the proceeds from the event will benefit the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Manila Zoo. Tickets are priced at P300, inclusive of one drink. For more details, e-mail info@soundsrealgood.com or visit soundsrealgood.com.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Sept. 23, Saturday

House of Om feat. DJ Collete, Anton Ramos & celebrity Moto iDJs at Teatrino, Greenhills Promenade; Duran Duran Night feat. Sleepyheads, Pedicab, Sound, Analog, The Automatics, Ciudad & Blast Ople at Saguijo; House Nation w/ DJs Angelo Villanueva, James Bald, Steven Lovina, Toni Wei & Wendell Garcia at Capone's; DJ Aroma (Germany) at Embassy Club; Weekender w/ DJs Paolo Maralit and Cao Ocampo at Jill's; Bacardi Bling at w/ DJ McCoy at Vida, Malate; Bringin' Back the Bounce w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; DJs Buddha & JD at Absinth; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café ; House Groovin' at Mezze; Cynthia Alexander & Apologia at Conspiracy; 10th Street at Mag:net Café; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Lounge-O-Rama w/ Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Wham Bam at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Drag-on Saturdays at Bed; New Level at Shang Streetscape' Sept. 24, Sunday X-Community: Underground Jungle Part feat. DJs Aroma (Germany) & Hallex.M(France) at the Manila Zoo; Unitel's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" at theaters nationwide; Trumpet's Joseph The Dreamer at SM Megamall Cinema 4; "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" at theaters nationwide; Godot at Wer Is U? at CCP Studio Theater



Sept. 25, Monday

Hemp Republic at Mag:net Café; Gary Granada & Bayang Barrios at Conspiracy; Movie Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; CanU DIGGIT? w/ DJs Red-I & Brandon Umali at Absinth; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's ; "Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?" at theaters nationwide; "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" at theaters nationwide; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

Sept. 26, Tuesday

24/7's I-ON D2N 24/7 Party feat. DJ Manolet Dario at Embassy; Makopa, Sino Sikat?, Chillitees, Rinka & Drip at Saguijo; DJs Crash & Patrick G. at Temple; Project Mayhem at Conspiracy; Sex & the City Ladies Night at Mezze; Concertino Acoustic Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; Sparkle w/ DJs Patch & Erwin Edralin at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar; Aretha & Souled Out at Merk's

Sept. 27, Wednesday

Benefit Concert for East Avenue Medical Center w/ Barbie Almalbis, Sam Milby & Wiseguys at Metro Concert Bar, West Avenue, QC; 92.3 Joey Jazz Session w/ Henry Katindig & other jazz artists at Teak Bistro, Rockwell; 4th Anniv Party at Merk's; Johnoy & Kakoy at '70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Terno Inferno at Saguijo; Smooth w/ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech at Mezze; DJ Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; The Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Concertino at Azzurro Linden Suites; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Stereo Therapy at Embassy VIP Room; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; Bliss at Temple; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Wahijuara & Out of Body Special at Mag:net Café; Jazz Night w/ Judith Banal at Merk's

Sept. 28, Thursday

24/7's I-ON D2N Party feat. DJ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; Burn, Baby, Burn! Concert at SM Mall of Asia; Drip & Itchyworms at Conspiracy; Imago & Sandwich at Saguijo; Crossover w/ Agot Isidro at Captain's Bar; Reggae Night at 6Underground; DJ Elian at Nuvo; Rouge Thursdays w/ Soundsgood at M Café; SPIT at Mag:net Café; GottaHaveHouse at Capone's; Open Mic Night at Azzurro Linden Suites; G Lounge at Mezze; DJ Arnel at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Thirsty Thirst-days at Bed; Ladies Night w/ DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Stella Ruiz & H20 band at Merk's

Sept. 29, Friday

Industry w/ DJ Luke Johnstone at Bed; House Sessions w/ DJs Marc Naval, Bombi Balquiedra & Jakey Yulo at Fiamma; Freddie Aguilar & Kim Jun at Clamshell 1 Intramuros; Pride Manila Chorus at CCP; Youth Benefit Show at Conspiracy; Liquefied Orange at Shang Streetscape; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; ; Sunshine w/ DJs Patch & Mon Maramba at Absinth; DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; Style w/ DJ Steve Mills at Citrus; Disco Mania at MDC Greenhills; Got House at Mezze; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Yummy at Government; Jive w/ DJs Darrel & McDash at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur

SCISSOR SISTERS
TA-DAH

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 NOCTURNAL NAVIGATOR at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Tuesday to events@mag24-7.com & mag24_7@yahoo.com.

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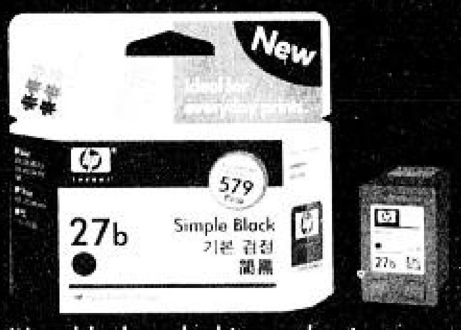

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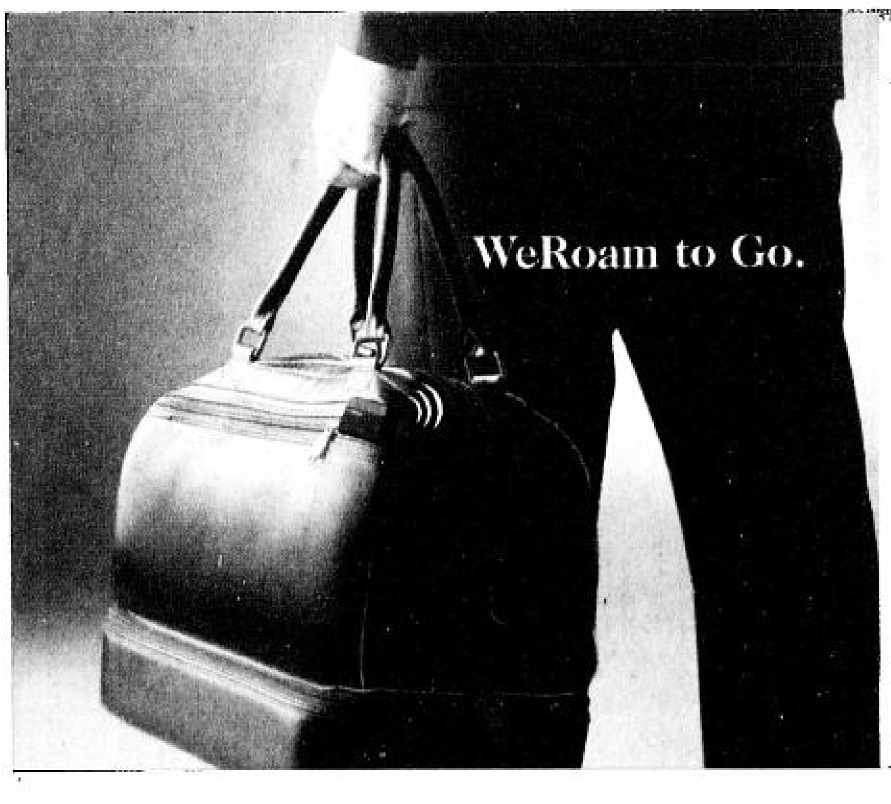

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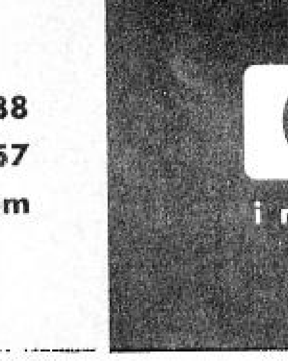

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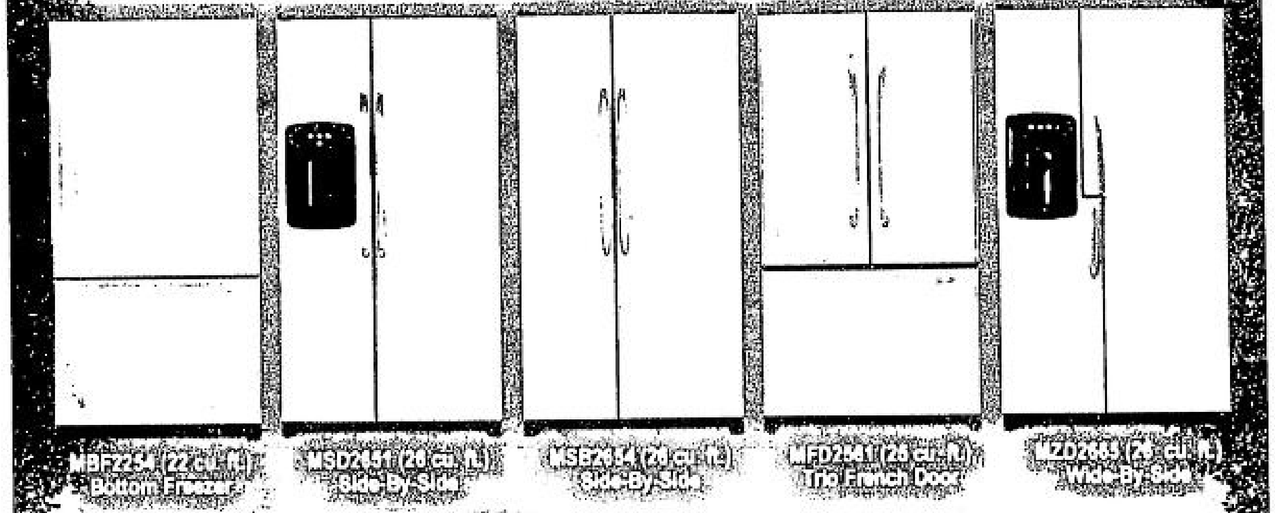

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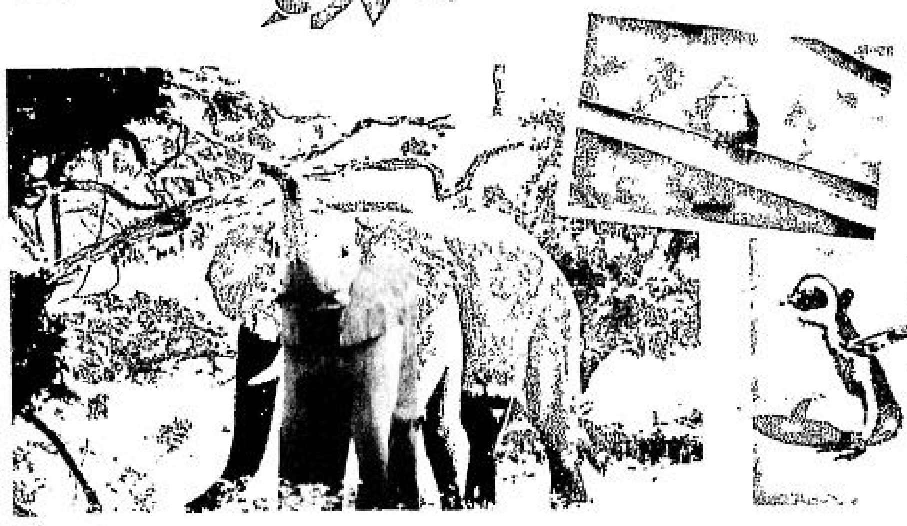

Migs gone wild

IT ALL BEGAN WITH AN INNER ZEAL AND a 35-mm SLR camera.

Congressman Juan Miguel "Migs" Zubiri, Representative of the third district of Bukidnon, has never made secret his love for the great outdoors and his staunch environmental advocacies. Now, for the first time, he shares with his newly rekindled passion for taking outdoor photographs and wildlife scenery, through his first solo exhibition entitled Out of Africa, on view at OWG from Sept. 22 to 26 for the benefit of the Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center.

For this his first solo exhibit, Migs, vice chair of the natural resources committee in Congress, presents a whole range of pictures taken recently in Zambia and Botswana in Africa that would not be out of place in a National Geographic issue.

All of the 25 framed Fine Art Photographs were printed using archival printing technologies that are made to last for a hundred years.

"Seeing all these animals in the wild makes you feel small in the scope of things. It's a very humbling experience that makes you appreciate nature and God's creations."

In taking outdoor pictures, Migs says, the anticipation of waiting for the proper moment to click away instantly adds to the thrill.

"Just waiting for that wonderful moment, that one instant, is truly exciting," he explains, "The photo of that cheetah nesting on tree is a perfect example. It happened in only a split-second, so I grabbed the opportunity. When it saw us coming, it darted away."

And to his mind, the medium that is photography has a power, a potency, which can and must be harnessed.

"Looking at photographs can be a very moving experience. With a single image, you can express a thousand words and thus, change perceptions or even lives."

It is therefore not a surprise that Migs takes photographs-an. extension of his artistic side—to share with others, and that he mounts this show to serve a higher purpose: to raise funds for the protection of wildlife that is endemic to Bukidnon and Northern Mindanao in general, via the Bukidnon Deer Park and Wildlife Center.

The Center, sitting on a 4.5-hectare property, was designed to replicate the natural environment where animals thrive and is envisioned to be a safe haven for animals that are in danger.

"This is how I do my part in preserving ecology. By way of my art, I get to capture the beauty of nature and it's majesty. In the process, I get to inculcate the value of maintaining ecological balance."

One Workshop Gallery is located at Ground Floor 2241 La Fuerza Plaza II, Don Chino Roces Avenue corner Sabio St., Makati City. For more information, call 8105094, email owgallery@yahoo.com or visit www.owgallery.com

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Story on page D3

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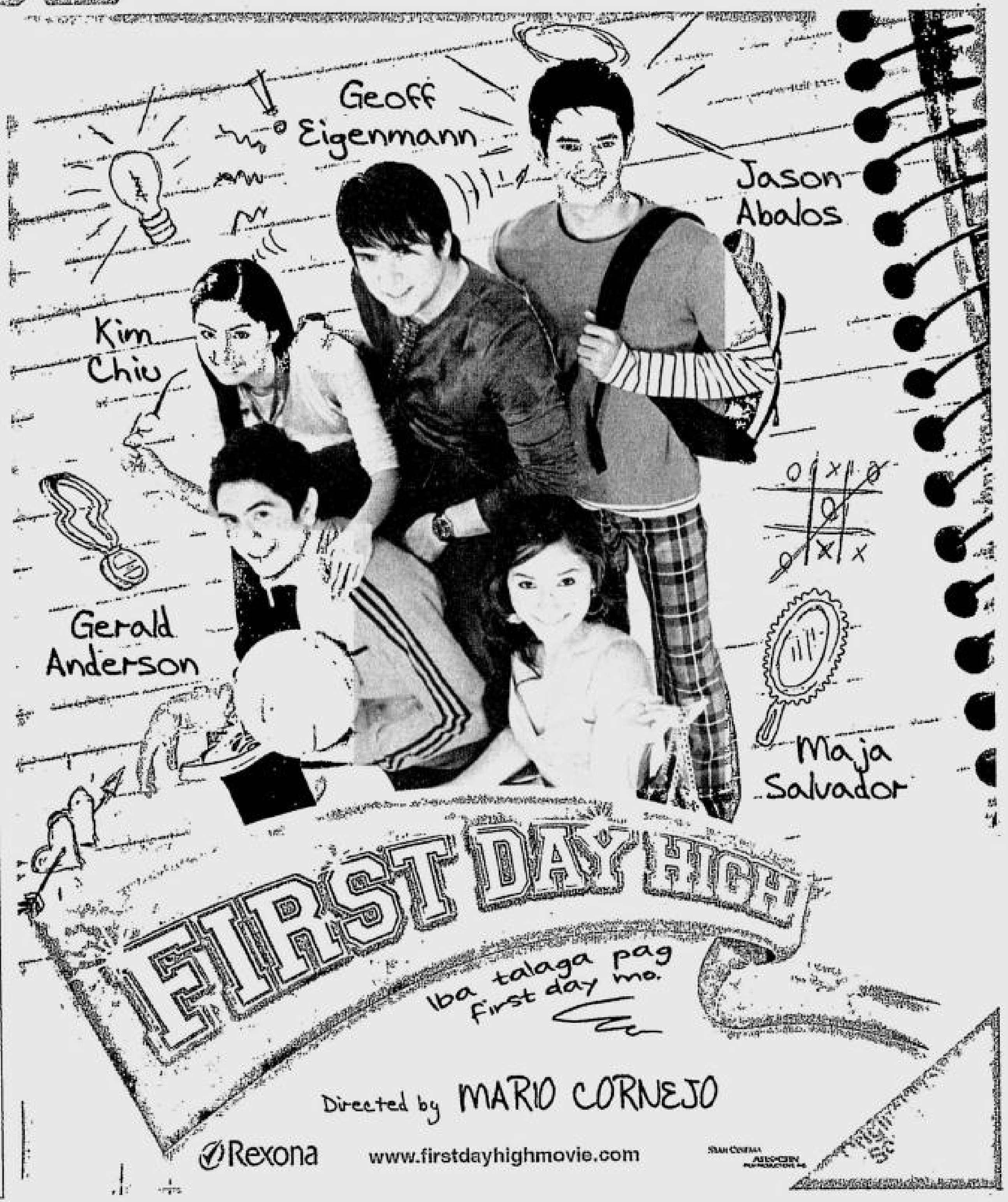

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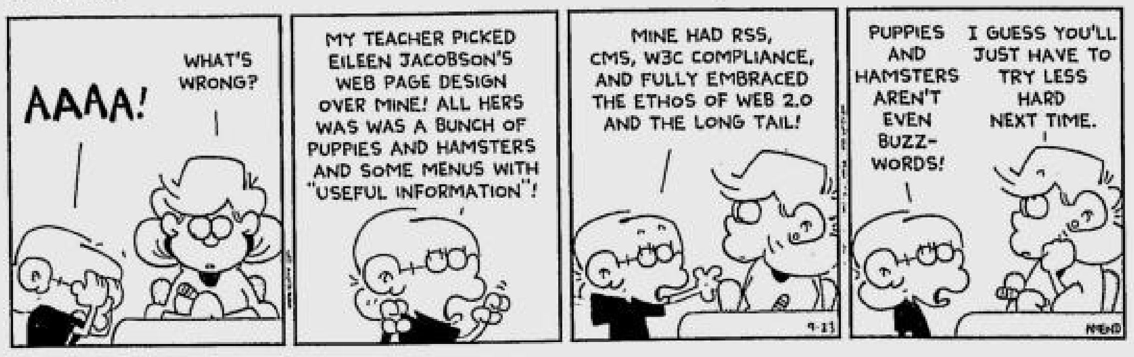
BY BILL AMEND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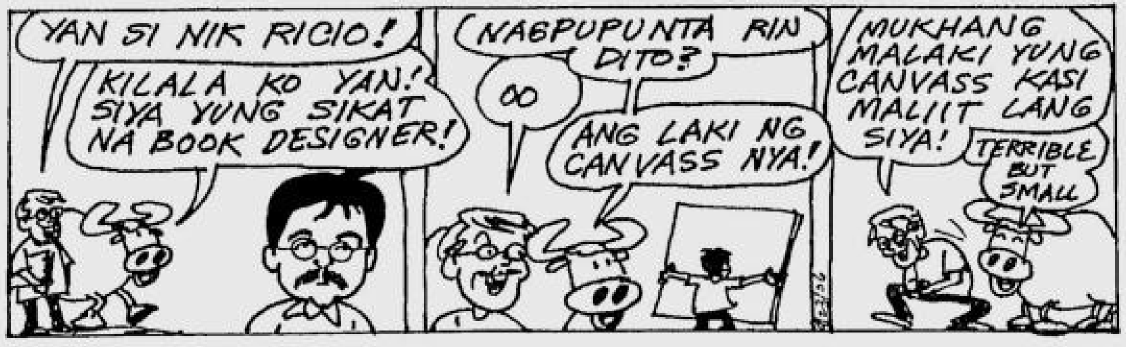
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA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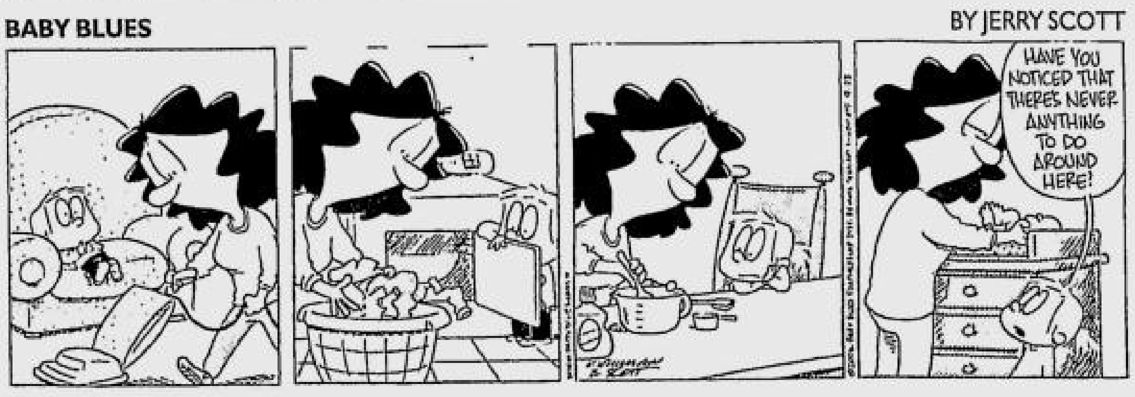
TERRIBLE BUT SMALL

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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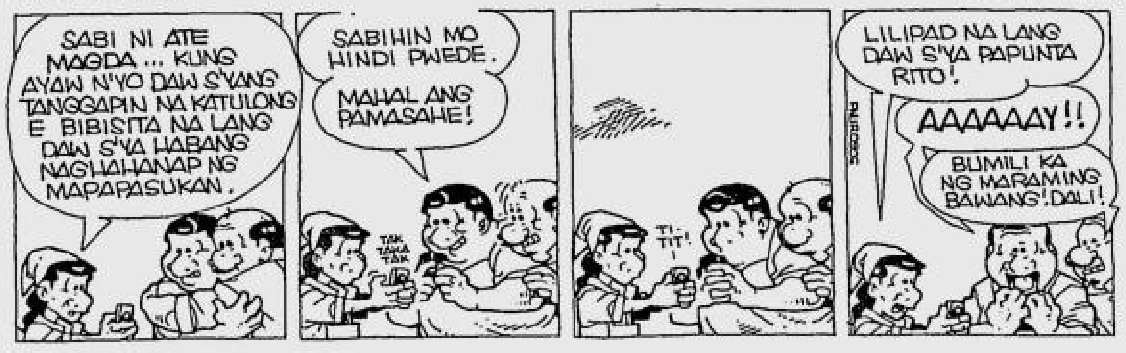
BY P.M. JUNIOR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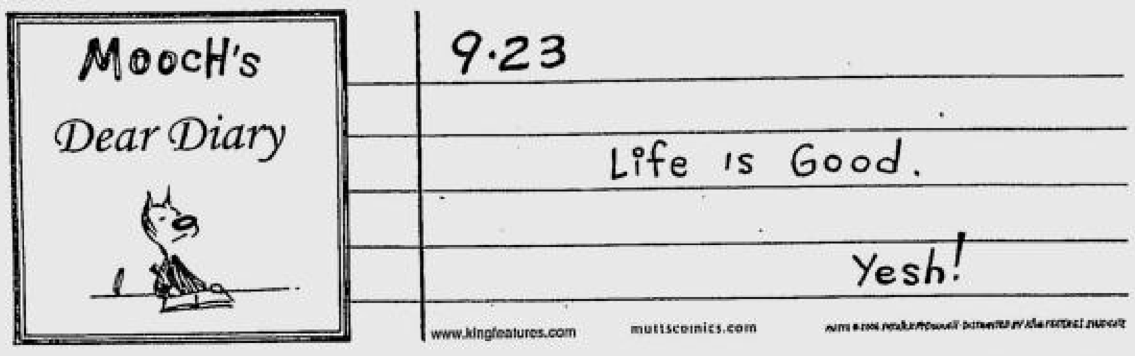
SABIHIN MO HINDI PWEDE.
MAHAL ANG PAMASAHE!
TAK TAKA TAK
TI-TIT!
LILIPAD NA LANG DAW S'YA PAPUNTA RITO!
AAAAAAY!!
BUMILI KA NG MARAMING BAWANG! DALI!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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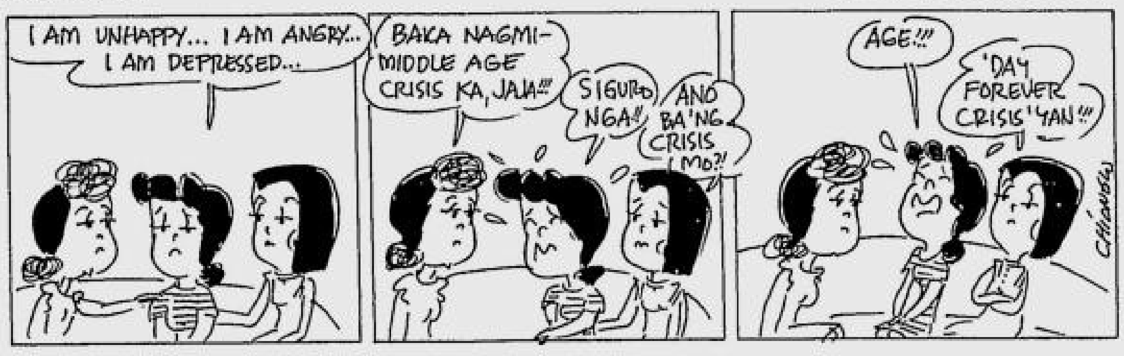
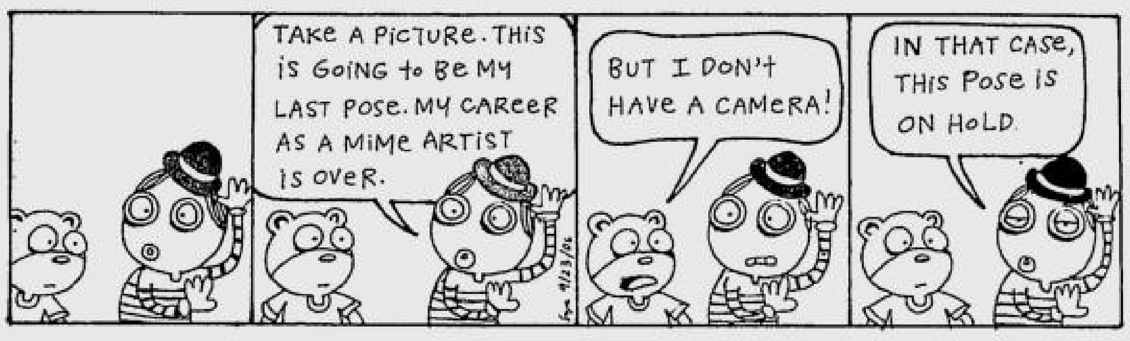
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


I AM UNHAPPY... I AM ANGRY... I AM DEPRESSED...
BAKA NAGMI-MIDDLE AGE CRISIS KA, JAJA!!!
SIGURO NGA!!
ANO BA'NG CRISIS MO?!
AGE!!!
'DAY FOREVER CRISIS 'YAN!!!
CHIONGLO

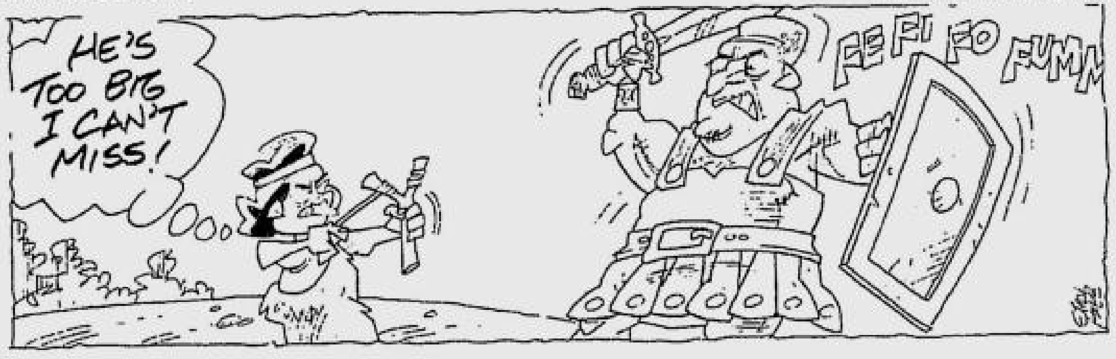
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


TAKE A PICTURE. THIS IS GOING TO BE MY LAST POSE. MY CAREER AS A MIME ARTIST IS OVER.
BUT I DON'T HAVE A CAMERA!
IN THAT CASE, THIS POSE IS ON HOLD.

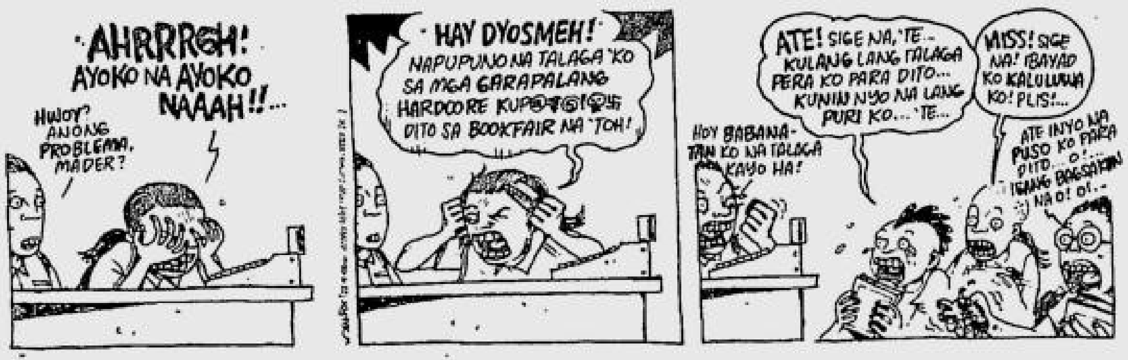
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HE'S TOO BIG I CAN'T MISS!
FE FI FO FUMM

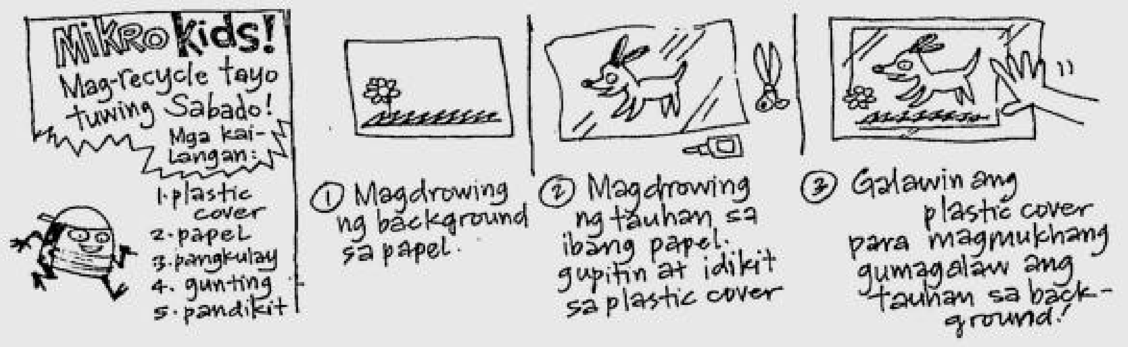
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AHRRRGH! AYOKO NA AYOKO NAAAH!!...
HWOY? ANONG PROBLEMA, MADER?
HAY DYOSMEH! NAPUPUNO NA TALAGA 'KO SA MGA GARAPALANG HARDCORE KUP@#!@% DITO SA BOOKFAIR NA 'TOH!
ATE! SIGE NA, 'TE... KULANG LANG TALAGA PERA KO PARA DITO... KUNIN NYO NA LANG PURI KO... 'TE...
MISS! SIGE NA! IBAYAD KO KALULUWA KO! PLIS!...
HOY BABANA-TAN KO NA TALAGA KAYO HA!
ATE INYO NA PUSO KO PARA DITO... O! ISANG BAGSAKAN NA O! O!...

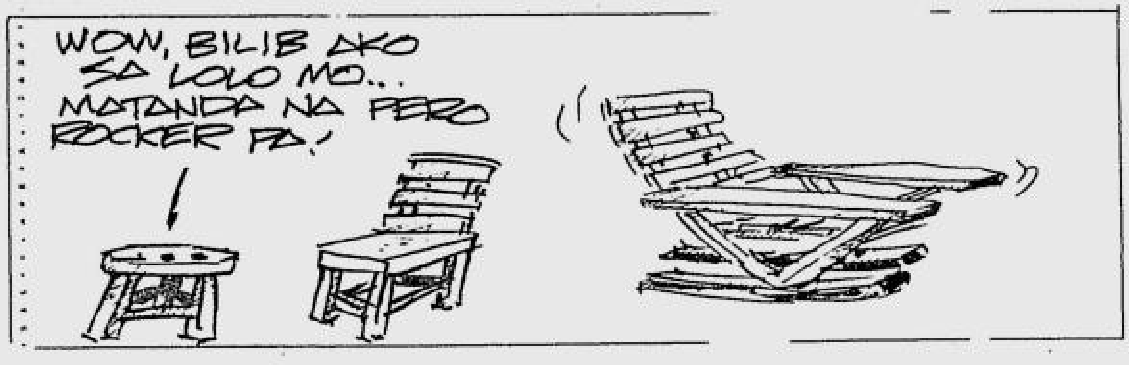
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRO Kids!
Mag-recycle tayo tuwing Sabado!
Mga kailangan:
1. plastic cover
2. papel
3. pangkulay
4. gunting
5. pandikit
① Magdrowing ng background sa papel.
② Magdrowing ng tauhan sa ibang papel. gupitin at idikit sa plastic cover
③ Galawin ang plastic cover para magmukhang gumagalaw ang tauhan sa background!

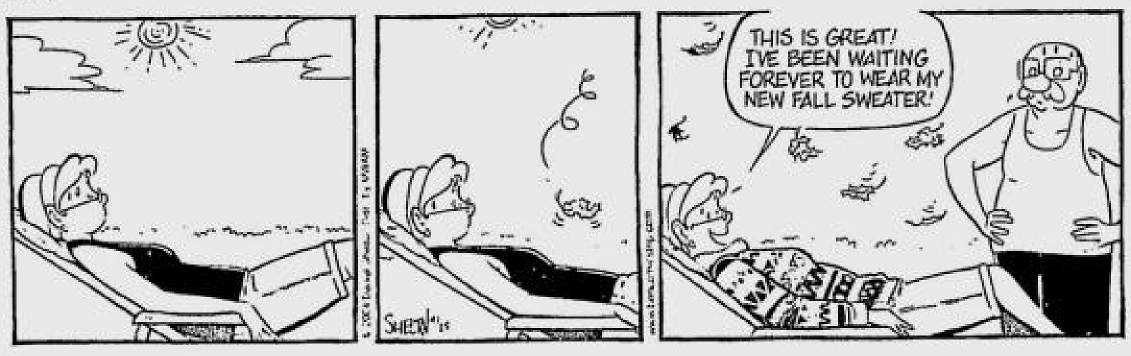
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, BILIB AKO SA LOLO MO... MATANDA NA PERO ROCKER PA!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS GREAT! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOREVER TO WEAR MY NEW FALL SWEATER!

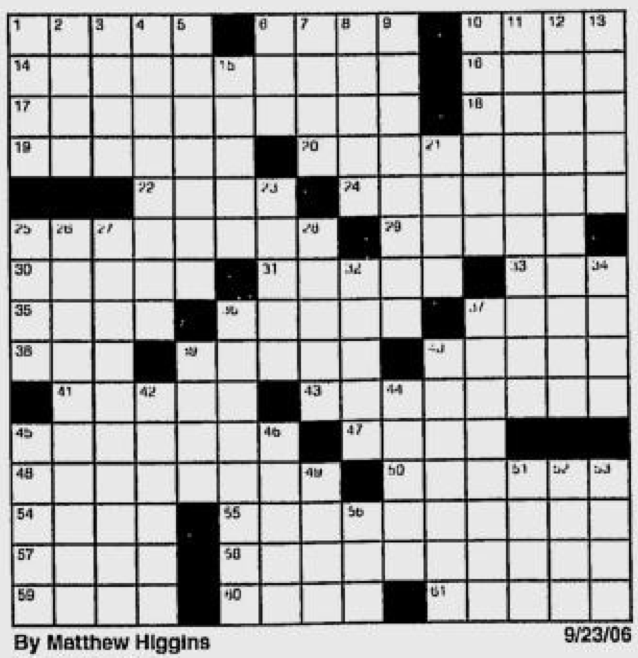
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Closing measures
6 Rosary unit
10 Evening in Bologna
14 In a perturbed manner
16 Oast or kiln
17 Going over and over again
18 Cafe au __
19 Singer Uggams
20 Make a vigorous start
22 Author Murdoch
24 Very small amount
25 Concealed
29 More slippery
30 Lascivious looks
31 London flashlight
33 Racetrack circuit
35 Social insects
36 Longfellow's Standish
37 Tiny arachnid
38 Sch. grp.
39 Port and sherry
40 Metal alloy trademark
41 Of a pelvic bone
43 Most tranquil
45 Column bases
47 Metal canisters
48 Rubber bands
50 Writing down
54 Small monkey
55 National Park in Wyoming
57 Eurasian deer
58 Italian motorway
59 MIT word
60 Western st.
61 Dot on a map

DOWN

1 Psychologist Jung
2 Pointed arch
3 Brief swims
4 Some artists' studios
5 Takeoffs
6 Wager
7 Prepare for publication
8 Lotion ingredients
9 Variation in musical intensity
10 Virgules
11 Longfellow poem
12 Says repeatedly and tiresomely
13 Dramatist Chekhov
15 Link
21 Rolling in it
23 Become permanent
25 Smacking blow
26 Enormous number
27 Gets even
28 Bob and Elizabeth
32 Alter the timer
34 Hide
36 Sheboygan's lake
37 Frightening creatures
39 Unit of power
40 "The Consul" composer
42 Maintain firmly
44 Vegetable coverings
45 Dish in a lab
46 Rugby formation
49 Fill to the brim
51 Slanted type: abbr.
52 Connecting point
53 Tiny insect
56 Night goddess



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH

9/23/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	R	M	E	D		E	S	L		E	R	S	E
O	K	E	E	F	E		D	E	E		M	A	P	S
N	I	G	H	T	C	O	U	R	T		S	P	O	T
E	M	I	T		L	O	C	A	T	E		I	R	A
		N	A	S	A	L		P	U	C	K	E	T	T
U	M	A		C	R	A	S	H	C	O	U	R	S	E
S	E	L	F	H	E	L	P		E	N	D			
A	L	D	A			A	A	U			O	C	H	S
			B	A	H		S	N	A	P	S	H	O	T
H	O	P	E	D	I	A	M	O	N	D		I	C	Y
I	N	F	R	O	N	T		C	O	R	E	A		
L	E	I		S	T	E	F	A	N		L	P	G	A
L	I	Z	A		S	A	L	L	Y	F	I	E	L	D
E	D	E	N		A	S	A		M	O	A	T	E	D
L	A	R	D		T	E	X		S	E	N	S	E	S

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9/23/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're highly creative! In part, this is because you love adventure and are ready to explore new avenues. You're not afraid to break rules. And you're not afraid of daunting obstacles. Your desire to explore excitement and your determination to overcome difficulties guarantee that you're a trailblazer in whatever you do. In addition, people find you seductive and charming! Work hard this year for rewards in 2007.

Birthdate of: Bruce Springsteen, musician; Jason Alexander, actor; Ray Charles, musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day for sensitive discussions with partners and close friends. You're very tuned in to their wants and needs. Perhaps someone wants to confide in you?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Quite possibly you can help a coworker today, or perhaps someone will help you. There is an easy, sympathetic give-and-take between yourself and others at work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New love and romance can blossom today. Relationships that begin now will be characterized by romantic fantasy. You could meet the love of your life.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Family is important. Family is forever. Today, a family member might want to confide in you. Alternatively, someone in the family might need your help.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're tempted to spend today daydreaming or reading romantic literature or watching feel-good romantic comedies. What you really want to do is to escape the humdrum of daily existence. (Why not?)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Something luxurious and out of your price range tempts you today. You're attracted to something beautiful that seems elusive or beyond your grasp.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your creative imagination is in overdrive! This definitely makes you more sensitive to the world around you. Enjoy beauty wherever you can find it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have strong escapist tendencies today. You might also be willing to sacrifice your interests in order to help someone else. Someone you know needs assistance or attention.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A good friend might give you advice today. No matter how flawed it is, it comes with the best of intentions. (This formula could also be reversed so that you are the one helping someone else.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're more willing than usual to entertain ideas of changing jobs or exploring new directions of life. Somehow, you have the courage to imagine different possibilities that are actually doable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Visit museums, galleries, parks and beautiful stores to satisfy your need to admire your surroundings.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You find it very easy to be sympathetic to others today. You genuinely want to help someone in need. You might ask your partner or close friend to join you in this endeavor.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

					9		8	
2				8		6		
	1			4	2			
8		5						
	2	4				9	6	
						5		1
			7	6			1	
		7		5				4
	4		2					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/23

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	5	3	6	1	7	2	4
1	4	6	9	2	7	8	5	3
2	3	7	8	4	5	6	9	1
9	5	8	2	3	4	1	6	7
4	6	1	5	7	8	9	3	2
3	7	2	1	9	6	4	8	5
7	1	3	6	5	9	2	4	8
6	2	4	7	8	3	5	1	9
5	8	9	4	1	2	3	7	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★

Eugene Tejada was paralyzed from the neck down in a freak accident on the basketball court—now his friends have jumped into action, inspired by his strength and resolve

victoria. cardona. seigle. ravena. peek. arigo.
pena. telan. pingris. raymundo. compton.
reavis. helterbrand. abarrientos. allado. limpot.
seigle. menk. alapag. taulava. yap.

washington. canaleta. santos. williams.

kurleto. montero.

stars.

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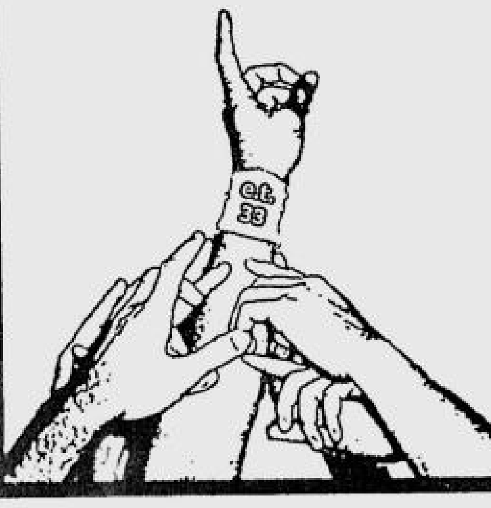
september 23 2006
san juan arena

memorabilia :
fiamma



with the participation of:

PBA ABC

0921 755 2750

by

Because we give a %^&*

By Sarah Meier-Albano

I'M STARING AT THE SCREEN, watching the video play for the umpteenth time, and every single time it comes to part where he falls, I cringe and start tearing. It's heart wrenching, but I won't let myself turn away.

I guess that sums up the type of person I am—the little girl who would curl into a ball in the corner of her room, and test how long she could stay there without moving. The little girl who always had a backpack prepared with "essentials" in case something ever happened and she'd only have enough time to grab that one thing. I used to ditch my Tita on the way home from ballet lessons when the MTR hit Admiral Station and we had to switch trains to head out to Kowloon side. I knew she'd freak out, and though I laughed like a brat when she got back to the apartment ten minutes after I did, deep down inside, there was always a rush; because at the age of seven, there's no way you're not even a

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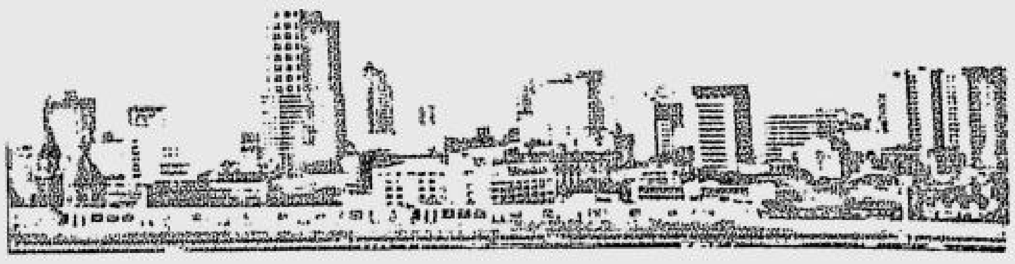

Because we give a %^&*

From page D3

REBELS, WITH A CAUSE: Eugene's back up—holding his number 33 (l-r) Chiqui, Migs, Anja, Manina, Mon, Joy, Mike, Banjo, Tony, Julie, Jimmy, LJ, Nats (seated), Don, Osang (seated), Maricar, Kalani, Harvey, T-Soy, Jackie, Rob, Sam, Aina, and Rich.

PHOTO BY MIGUEL MIRANDA OF BLINK STUDIOS ASSISTED BY SHAWN YAO, RUMPLES ESTACIO AND AIMEE BERNARDO. STYLED BY: RINA SALINDA OF STYLE LAB

little scared you're gonna get lost, or fall onto the train tracks, or something like that. But you gotta be a soldier sometimes, see, ready for whatever life throws your way.

Realizations

I also used to let my imagination run; close my eyes and put myself in different situations, live them out in my head, never allowing myself to pull back when it got scary, or painful, or sad. I'd do it when I saw homeless people, road kill, the elderly at the hospital, people mourning at cemeteries. I guess it was my way of driving home the realization, that I was truly blessed.

Recently, I've been trying quite a bit, to imagine what it would be like to lose control of part of your body. And as I watch the video, seeing Eugene able to shoot, rebound, jump, and run … it hits, and hits hard.

"Are you crying?"

I look up, and Chiqui and LJ are looking at me, flyers for our event in hand. They'd just circled the Fort, on a Friday night, passing them out. LJ holds up a coffee cup, and smiles. She's been teaching little kids at school, and like her students, it's way past her bedtime. None of us have been getting much sleep lately, trying to pull off the first Celebrity Benefit of its kind, in a span of three weeks. Sponsors aren't coming in as quick as we'd like, we're running out of time, and we know Gene is counting on us.

Paralyzed

See, Eugene Tejada, a dear friend of ours, was paralyzed from the neck down, after a freak accident on the hardcourt in the last minutes of his Purefoods-Red Bull PBA game this past Mother's Day. After his relocation to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, reputed for its excellent spinal rehab facilities, it became apparent that despite the overwhelming amount of support from Eugene's Purefoods family (who completely shouldered all of Eugene's medical expenses for months after the accident, and who still continue to provide generous assistance to the Tejada family) there was still a need for efforts to raise funds.

General Meeting number one for the organizers of 'Step By Step—The Eugene Tejada Fundraiser' happened to coincide with the celebration of my 25th birthday. The whole group gathered at my house, the day of the 2006 PBA Rookie Draft, kids and dogs running around, round the clock food (thanks Pina!), and a nice little word game that got us all laughing hysterically. I sat through the evening, watching everyone, and realizing that for the first time in a long time, I was surrounded by overwhelmingly passionate, genuine, and positive people. I told them so too, in a little thank you speech, as we toasted to friendship, some with glasses brimming with Hypnotiq, others with sparkling apple juice. And that's the beauty of this group—our diversity. All born in different parts of the world, but proudly Filipino. All down to hit the club and dance through a Saturday night, but ready for church come Sunday. All living in the moment, but with a solid plan for tomorrow. Go ahead, take a look at the picture, and try telling me that my friends don't kick ass. It is this group of people, that I have spent the succeeding Sundays, and sometimes Mondays, Wednesdays, and a fair share of Saturdays with, talking about our plans for Gene.

Step by step

This is what started the snowball we now know as 'Step By Step—The Eugene Tejada Fundraiser.' Part One: The Eugene Tejada Celebrity Benefit, featuring an exhibition basketball game with the upstanding young gentlemen of our professional league. It's happening this afternoon, Saturday, Sept. 23rd at 4 p.m. at the brand spanking new San Juan Arena along Santolan. Entrance runs from as little as P20 up to P200, with encouragement to donate even more, as all proceeds go to Eugene's rehabilitative expenses.

One night, Jimmy, LJ, Kalani, Harvey, Jackie, Banjo and I, stayed up chatting about how hard it was that something so tragic had to happen for us to come together and realize how much we valued each other's friendship. But today's event should be testament enough that Gene is not fighting for nothing, and that through him, we're all united, and determined to make things better on a bigger scale. We're ready to make 'Step By Step' an official foundation, all about hope, resolve, courage, faith, and passion; to be able to pass on to someone else, the inspiration given to us by one individual. Someone who through the years, has never failed to make others smile, has always had kind words to say, and through the struggle of making it in the PBA, never let doubt supercede his passion. Our soldier, facing adversity head on, forging forward through whatever is thrown his way.

A kick-ass day

It gets tough sometimes for Gene, whose sister Dana, sleeps by his side in a reclining chair at the Medical Center. He is, after all, relearning how to do what most of us take for granted; eat, shower, sit up, stand, walk. He's turning 26 tomorrow, and as most of us do on our birthdays, will probably reflect on the past two and a half decades, wondering what the next two and a half will bring. We're not sure. But what we do know, is that he's got what some people long for—friends. And friends that really give a %^&* at that.

It's gonna be such a kick-ass day today, so be ready to live it up our way. We'll see you there. Who else is gonna be there? Read on …

Expect appearances from your favorite celebrities, win an assortment of prizes in our raffle, and stay tuned for information on our auction of PBA memorabilia. Hosted by Cindy Kurleto and KC Montero, plus performances by Sheree, the All Stars, Radha, Akafellas, Legit Misfitz and other surprise guests await!

Slam dunk

Aside from the Dunks For Genie—Slam Dunk Exhibition featuring KG Cañaleta, Kelly Williams, Jay Washington, and Arwind Santos, The Eugene Tejada Celebrity Benefit Game, made possible with the steadfast assistance of ABC 5 and the PBA, will feature players: James Yap, Eric Menk, Asi Taulava, Jimmy Alapag, Alvin Patrimonio, Johnny Abarrientos, Allan Caidic, KG Cañaleta, Jeff Cariaso, Mike Cortez, Macmac Cardona, Don Allado, Marc Pingris, Jun Limpot, Dorain Peña, Andy Seigle, Kerby Raymundo, Rafi Reavis, Ali Peek, John Arigo, Mark Telan, Boybits Victoria, JJ Helterbrand, and Bong Ravena, with special player/coaches Alex Compton, Dennis Padilla, and Antonio Aquitana!

For donations: EUGENE TEJADA - UCPB Account Number 134-142-812-9

For more information: genie@steakproductions.com or text/call the STEP BY STEP HOTLINE 0921 7552750 or www.myspace.com/eugenetejadafundraiser

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SATURDAY Special

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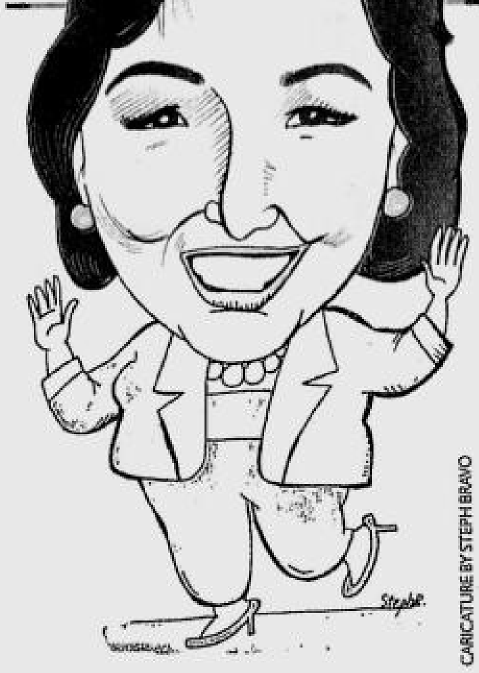

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

Nida Blanca is a tough act to follow

BLANCA. Combined comic flair and dramatic verve.

NIDA with erstwhile love team partner, Nestor de Villa, in 1955's "Ibong Adarna."

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE OF THE FEW LOCALE FEMALE STARS who has been assiduously and determinedly "emulated" through the decades is Nida Blanca. In fact, there is a popular performance style informally known as the "Nida Blanca Syndrome."

Its components are a feisty, even "tomboy" acting style, a "*palaban*" thrust in performance, a decided preference for a lot of comedy and some action scenes, and preferably including singing and dancing talent.

Gutsy roles

Nida first introduced her unique performance style in gutsy roles in movies like "Batangueña," "Bahala Na" and "Galawgaw," where her comedic, dancing and singing skills held her in good stead, and she quickly became an audience favorite.

The feisty actress also popularized the ack-ack delivery of lines, coming across as an entertaining chatterbox and busybody. She demonstrated her dramatic verve in some "serious" films, for which she even won several awards—but, it was as a "*palaban*" performer that she really made her mark.

That's why, in succeeding decades, she "inspired" quite a number of young comers to similarly go for broke in their musical-comedy performances.

In the '80s, Maricel Soriano came across as a "young Nida Blanca," especially when they were cast together in the "John and Marsha" TV sitcom. Like Nida before her, Maricel talked a mile a minute, performed with zest and feistiness, and could also sing and dance.

Gung-ho style

Trouble was, even after many years, Maricel held on to the same gung-ho style, so she ended up being criticized for not mellowing with the passing years—unlike Nida herself, who eventually reinvented herself into a sensitive dramatic actress.

After Maricel, the next major Nida Blanca acolyte was Jolina Magdangal. Like Nida and Maricel, Jolina specializes in gung-ho comedy, and can sing and dance up a storm. She also added a touch all her own with her idiosyncratic fashion flair, in terms of far-out clothes, accessories and hairstyles.

Nida's performance style has been so influential that even the unexpected likes of Regine Velasquez has "emulated" her in some film outings—with less than happy results.

The problem is, Nida's "clones" get her style's external characteristics, but don't capture her genuinely idiosyncratic zest and spirit.

Most recently, it's Toni Gonzaga who's "doing a Nida" in her movie, "You Are the One" and her sitcom, "Crazy for You." As with Regine, however, the effort feels forced and fails to vivify Nida's real essence.

THE ACTRESS hams it up with Jaime dela Rosa in "Galawgaw" (1954).

More than being tomboy, *palaban* and chattering away like language is going to self-destruct in two minutes, Nida's emulators should understand that she became popular, loved and acclaimed because she was *her own* vital and versatile person.

She loved life and herself, and filled the screen with her natural ebullience, talent and verve. —A truly tough act to follow, so lesser talents shouldn't even try.

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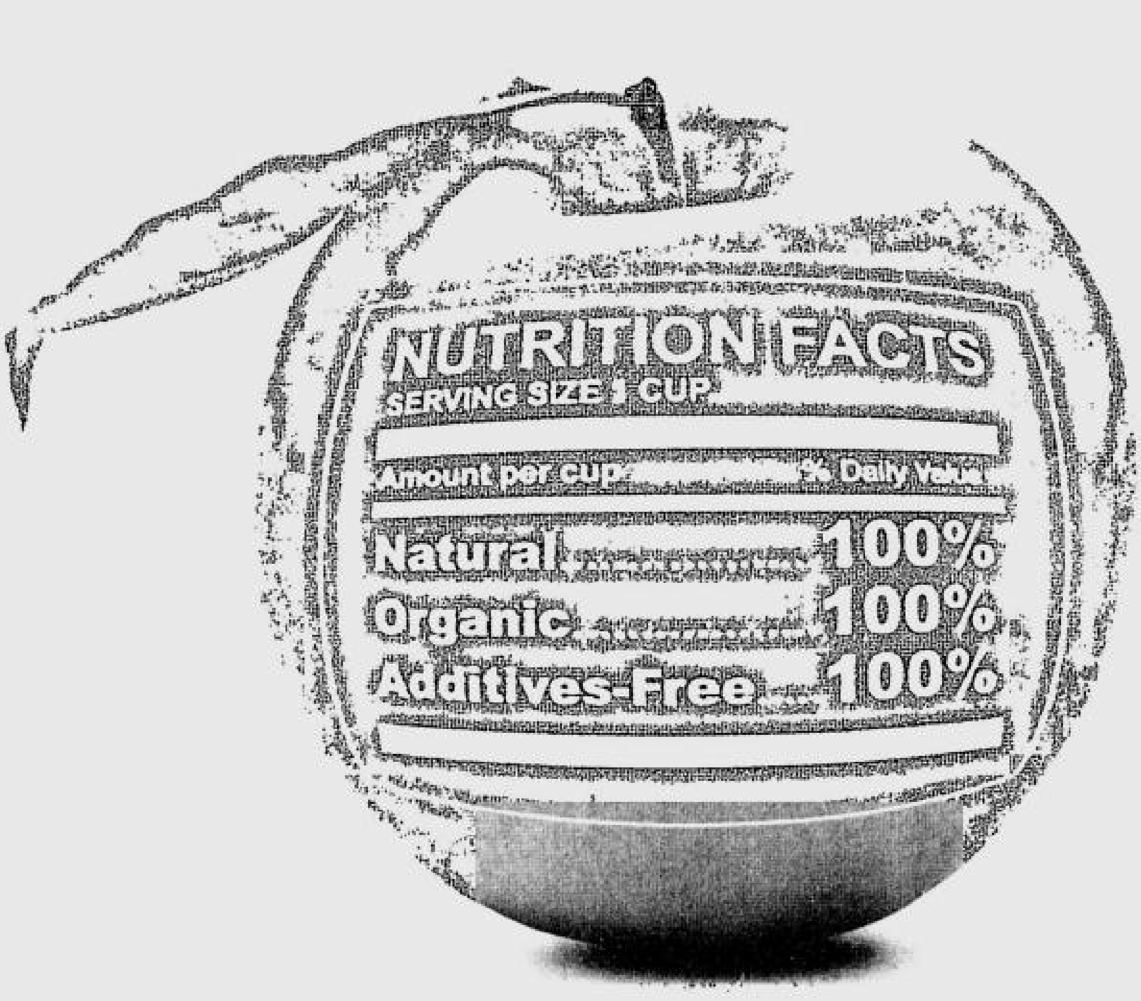
Getting the right dose of greentea boosts weight loss

With so many trends hitting the health market these days; it's a comfort to know that one need not look too far to pave the way for improved well-being. Green tea, which has been around for centuries, offers tried and tested benefits that surpass the latest diet solutions or miracle drugs. Popular since ancient times in China and Japan, it comes from *Camellia Sinensis*, which has been known to promote better health.

Aside from its health benefits such as preventing cancer, arthritis, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's disease, green tea is also noted for helping burn fat and increase metabolism. A study supported by the Geneva University Hospital and the Swiss National Science Research Fund shows that green tea extract is rich in catechin polyphenols and caffeine—the very ingredients that allow thermogenesis, or increased energy expenditure, to occur. While every green tea contains these particular polyphenols, it's important to note that the proper ratio of ingredients is essential in maximizing the many advantages of green tea. Universal Nutrition ThermoGreen Tea, exclusively distributed by *Healthy Options*, contains the precise ratio of these chemical substances as found in the Geneva study, to boost metabolism and increase the rate at which the body burns fat.

"Introduced in 2002, ThermoGreen Tea has become a breakthrough in the world of fat-burning supplements," Romy Sia , *Healthy Options* Managing Director, said. "Those who want to lose weight safely and effectively have been avid users of ThermoGreen Tea. We believe the secret lies in its exclusive extract – a precise ratio of specific polyphenols including *90mg of epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG)*, which has been found to aid weight loss." This precise amount would be very difficult to achieve in beverage form - one may need many cups of pure green tea, brewed from tea leaves without sugar and additives, to get the same benefits.

Tapping into the many health benefits of green tea, Thermo Green Tea stands out in a market filled with products that claim quick fix solutions. Who knew better health can come in a capsule?



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

Heady mix of art and pulp in Bangkok movie marathon

By Rito P. Asilo

DESPITE THE HECTIC SCHEDULE OF our work-related trip to Thailand last week, the movie bug nevertheless bit us to squeeze in every free hour we got to purchase videos of contemporary World Cinema titles and watch as many European and regional films as we could in that exotic Asian haven—one week before Prime Minister Thaksin was ousted in a bloodless *coup*. That moviegoing experience proved to be most rewarding:

Historical drama

Ken Loach's flawed but powerful historical drama, **"The Wind That Shakes the Barley,"** this year's winner of Cannes' *Palme d'Or*, follows two Irish Republican brothers (Cillian Murphy and Padraic Delaney) torn apart by opposing ideological views about Northern Ireland's struggle for freedom and autonomy against oppressive British military forces in the 1920s.

Murphy and Delaney turn in fierce, passionate performances, but Orla Fitzgerald, who plays the lover of Murphy's character, impresses most with her piercingly honest portrayal.

Thai films have always intrigued us for their unique scenography, sparklingly photographed locales and arguably Southeast Asia's most attractive actors, but rote storytelling style and melodramatic schmaltz have always been their liability—including even Nimibutr's acclaimed productions like "Nang Nak" and "Jan Dara."

So, watching Nithiwat Tharatorn's peppy teenage crowd-pleaser, **"Seasons Change"** is a refreshing breath of fresh air: It's about a young man (Witawat Singhalampong) who, without telling his parents, trades his medical scrubs for a career in the performing arts—and for love.

The featherweight feature dazzles with its combination of youthful zest, fast-paced editing, delightful soundtrack, and charismatic young leads.

Fork on the road

Talk about following one's passion: French director Jacques Audiard delivers one the best films we've seen this year, **"The Beat That My Heart Skipped,"** an immensely satisfying adaptation of James Toback's 1978 melodrama, "Fingers," about 28-year-old mobster, Thomas ("The Spanish Apartment's" Romain Duris, in an Oscar-worthy performance), who faces a fork on the road after a chance encounter with his former music teacher.

The incident prompts him to take up piano lessons again—a childhood passion he inherited from his long-departed musician-mother. Suddenly, he finds unlikely salvation from a life of crime and violence. But, running away from a shady past is just as hard as playing a Mozart piece... Cineastes, watch out for this!

Fairy tales

Narrated by Hong Kong superstar, Andy Lau, Robin Lee's Pusan film fest winner, **"The Shoe Fairy"** (Taiwan) is a sumptuous visual treat about a young girl's fascination with fairy tales, princes and princesses, wolves and witches, and shoes—and later, her quest for true love and happiness as a grown-up (Vivian Hsu).

The visual magic and splendor Lee conjures up in his languorously paced production reminds us of Kwon-Taek Im's "Chunhyang," Takeshi Kitano's "Dolls," and Akira Kurosawa's "Dreams." Now, if only the film wasn't boring…

David Guggenheim's controversial documentary, **"An Inconvenient Truth,"** features an articulate Al Gore, who fuses philosophical rhetoric and scary scientific facts about the dangers of global warming, and we need to pay attention to it—before it's too late!

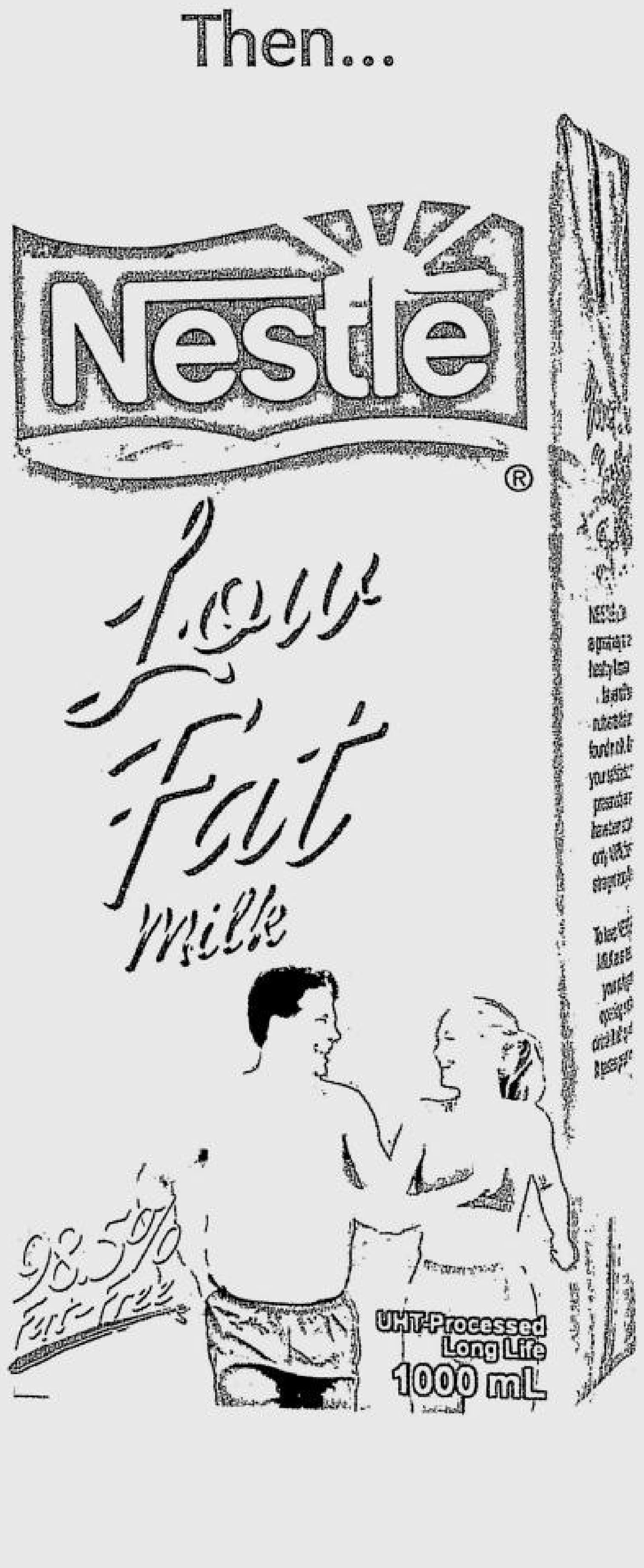
Yes, Virginia, like Tommy Lee Jones, the former US vice president's roommate at Harvard, Gore, with his dashing good looks, stellar bearing and moral integrity, *should* have taken up acting instead of politics.

Specialty shops

Among the films that we got from specialty shops (like The House) are Bahman Ghobadi's Kurdish feature, "Turtles Can Fly" (the first film shot in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein); Marzieh Meshkini's multi-awarded "The Day I Became a Woman" (Iran); Catherine Breillat's "A Real Young Girl" (France); Nuri Bilge Ceylan's "Uzak" (Distant) from Turkey; the Dardenne brothers' "The Son" and "The Child"; Jafar Panahi's "The Mirror"; Svetozar Ristovski's "Mirage" (Macedonia); Hans Weingartner's "The Edukators," and Marc Rothemund's "Sophie Scholl" from Germany;

Mark Dornford-May's Berlin-winning "U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha" (South Africa); Cate Shortland's "Somersault" (Australia); Manoel de Oliveira's "A Talking Picture" (Portugal); Nonzee Nimibutr's most recent film, "Baytong"; Thanakorn Pongsuwan's "Fake," and Ittisoontorn Vichailak's "The Overture," the motion picture that revived interest in classical music in Thailand.

Which makes us wonder: Where are the *Pinoy* films in all this?



Stars in their twilight years

By Behn Cervantes

CELEBRITIES ARE OFTEN described as "larger than life." And, indeed, in their prime, many of them are. With his good looks and stellar charm, Marlon Brando was the epitome of machismo in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Julius Caesar."

Look up photos of Rock Hudson in "Magnificent Obsession" and "Giant." He deserved the gushy publicity accorded him as a cinematic god.

Football hero

Ronald Reagan had the looks and physique of the American football hero. They catapulted him—all the way to the White House. And Charlton Heston essayed mythical figures like Moses and Michelangelo with great physical believability.

These actors were awesome, to be sure. But, they were sometimes too good to be true:

Breathtaking

The goddesses of Hollywood were equally breathtaking: The young Ava Gardner was described by a critic as "unfairly gorgeous" when she appeared in "Pandora." She was likewise a credible Aphrodite in "One Touch of Venus." But, it was in "Barefoot Contessa" where she was called the most beautiful animal in the world.

In her late teens and early 20s, Elizabeth Taylor took my breath away when the camera focused on her stunning face and blue-violet eyes. Movie fans will remember her flattering close-ups in "An American in Paris" and "Rhapsody." She was so secure about her physical beauty that she didn't mind deglamorizing herself in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"—and copped a best actress Oscar for her gutsy portrayal.

Unhealthy lifestyles

But, alas, time and unhealthy lifestyles affect even the best of them when they reach the twilight of their years. For example, Elvis "The Pelvis" Presley was sex personified when he gyrated his way into the hearts of millions of rock 'n' roll fans.

Despite great wealth and fame, however, Presley plummeted to the depths of drug addiction. He lost his good looks, gained weight and became professionally unmanageable.

Brando ballooned from a poster-pretty macho into a portly man. And Ava was said to have become heavily dependent on alcohol and the "kindness of strangers."

Today, Taylor is a far cry from how she looked in her prime. In fact, in a recent television special she appeared in with Joan Collins, Shirley MacLaine and Debbie Reynolds, they all looked better than the iconic actress.

Debilitating

Ronald Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, and became a recluse towards the end of his years. Heston has likewise been put into seclusion by his family so that the public will remember him as he was in his prime.

PRESLEY. From fab to flab.

On the other hand, Marilyn Monroe, Jean Harlow and James Dean are remembered for their good looks because they died when they were still young. They passed away before time and reckless lifestyles could take their toll on their physical perfection.

Special reunion

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

QUIETLY, *SANS* FANFARE, THE staff of Mr. & Ms. magazine had a reunion last July at the residence of its publisher, Eugenia D. Apostol. We didn't even have an inkling then that *Tita* Eggie would get the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature, Journalism and Creative Communications. If she knew, she wouldn't have told us, anyway.

Revolution

It was the staff's first reunion in a long time. Soon after the February 1986 People Power revolution, the staffers of Mr. & Ms. Special Edition, having done their task, went on to pursue other endeavors:

Editor in Chief Letty Magsanoc became editor of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, with Fe Zamora on her staff. Joey Nolasco and JP Fenix also joined PDI while Candy Quimpo, Frankie Joaquin and J. Raul Alibutud stayed with the magazine, which *Tita* Eggie had reinvented into an agribusiness publication.

Magsanoc eventually became Editor in Chief of the INQUIRER. The group's reliable typesetter (yes, *wala pang* computers *noon*) Nita del Rosario, also moved to PDI, and eventually became chief of administration.

The magazine's chief photographer, Johnny Villena, also became PDI's chief photographer, while I, Joe Galvez and the rest of the gang, became regular contributors.

Dancing partner

Artist Jess Abrera, who was *Tita* Eggie's resident dancing partner, also moved to PDI, but the magazine's other staffers, artists and photographers (like Rey Vivo, the late Marlon Diamante, Becky Vinaviles and production chief Jose "*Mang* Joe" Ocampo) remained with Mr. & Ms.

Recently, Quimpo, who's now based in London with husband-journalist Richard Gourlay and their three children, came home for her father's funeral. We decided to have a reunion—potluck-style—at *Tita* Eggie's place in Dasmariñas Village.

MAGSANOC AND APOSTOL. Have gone on to pursue other endeavors.

Ms Magsanoc joined the party at 1 a.m. Joaquin, who's also married to a journalist, was sorely missed, as she has since moved to Washington DC. But Nolasco, now PDI managing editor, excused himself by explaining to Zamora, "One can reminisce, but can't go back to the past."

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or call 896-3208.

'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' performed tonight

MONTAGE

BING PIMENTEL'S MOVING MUSICAL ON martial law, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," will be performed tonight at Meralco Theater as a benefit for Caritas Manila.

It stars acclaimed musical artists Rito Asilo and Jane Diaz.

The show is particularly instructive to young Filipinos born after the Edsa Revolution, because it brings to life a difficult and challenging collective experience that they weren't a part of.

"Pag-ibig sa Bayan" will also be performed in Cagayan de Oro and Davao. If you would like the musical to be performed in your school or locality, call Ruby at 851-3120.

Gripping crime dramas on Hallmark

This October, Hallmark Channel presents two suspense-filled drama series: "Midsomer Murders" and "Wire in the Blood."

All Fridays of October at 9 p.m., "Midsomer Murders." Killings rock the peaceful county of Midsomer in England, and the task to solve them falls into the hands of chief Inspector Tom Barnaby (John Nettles) and his sidekick, Sgt. Gavin Troy (Daniel Casey).

Thursdays at 10 p.m. starting Oct. 19, "Wire in the Blood" has clinical psychologist Dr. Tony Hill (Robson Green) and DCI Carol Jordan (Hermione Norris) investigating the kidnap and killing of little children, a serial killer, a sniper, and a murderous schizophrenic.

NORRIS AND GREEN. Topbill suspense-filled series, "Wire in the Blood."

EMO rockfest

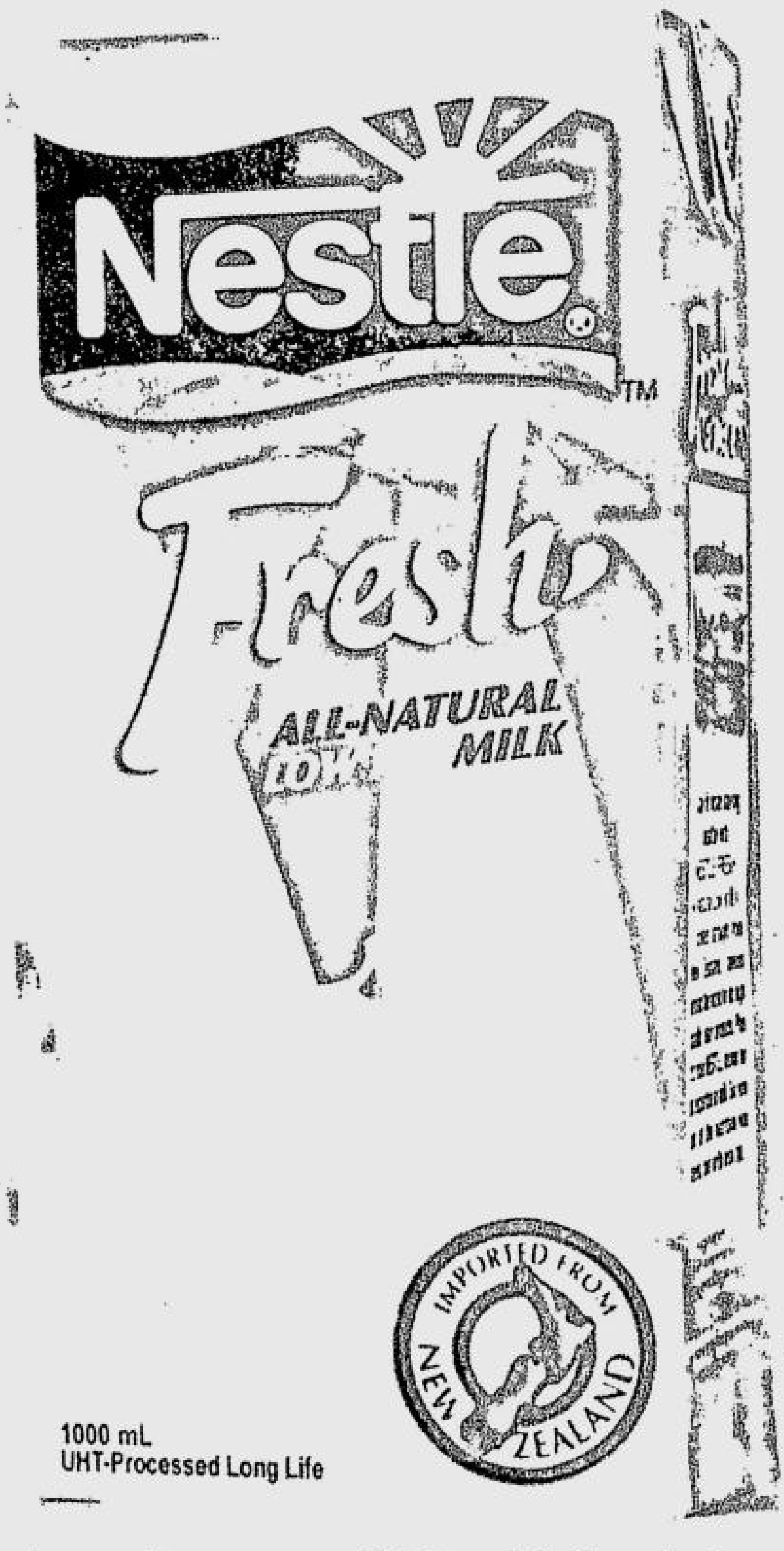
Tonight at Rajah Soliman, Roxas Blvd., "EMO-FEST" features fave rock acts Hale, Kjwan, Urbandub, Sugarfree, Sponge Cola, *Pinoy* emo group Typecast and Malaysia's rock band, Love Me Butch. The free concert is presented by the City of Manila and FMAP, an independent record label and production company, for the benefit of the scholars of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 23 at 7:15 p.m., "The Bourne Supremacy." Sept. 24 at 6:30 a.m., "The Witches of Eastwick." Sept. 25 at 5:30 p.m., "Real Genius." Sept 26 at 10 a.m., "Fahrenheit 9/11." Sept. 27 at 9 p.m., "The Terminal." Sept. 28 at 2:30 p.m., "Losing Isaiah." Sept. 29 at 7:15 p.m., "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

On Cinemax, Sept. 23 at 6:30 a.m., "The Blues Brothers." Sept. 24 at 7:10 p.m., "The Italian Job." Sept. 25 at 6:30 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." Sept 26 at 2:35 p.m., "The Wild Bunch." Sept. 27, 6 a.m., "Shane." 3 p.m., "Arabesque." 8:25 p.m., "House of Secrets." Sept. 28 at 6:20 a.m., "Cat Ballou." Sept. 29 at 6:30 a.m., "Charade."

... and now.



The new look and name of Nestlé Fresh Low Fat Milk.

SM Supermarket opens 27th branch in Lipa

SM Supermarket

SM Supermarket's 27th superstore opened on September 22 at Lipa City in Batangas, offering more shopping convenience and novel ideas to spice up your grocery adventure. SM Supermarket Lipa boast of a wide assortment of fresh produce and grocery items, streamlined modern interiors and fast and friendly service.

What sets every SM Supermarket apart is its pioneering ideas when it comes to giving you more shopping value. Here in SM Supermarket Lipa, you will discover new and innovative ideas that will definitely make every grocery trip worth your while.

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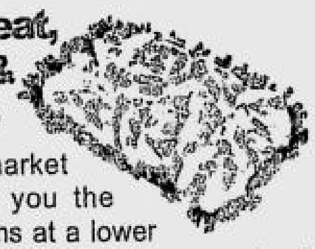


SM Supermarket guarantees you the freshest items at a lower cost compared to prices in the local wet market. Pork Kasim & Pork Chop retails for P125/kg, while Pork Belly is at P129 per kilo only! Fresh Chicken is at an unbeatable P85 per kilo. New addition to the vegetable section include *Mini Hydroponic Lettuce* and *Potted Herbs.*

What's New!

Takal-Takal Station

Aside from the regular offerings, Lipa's takal-takal station includes miki, ubod, labong, laing, sampalok, prepared or ready-to-cook meats and special chicken cuts. A variety of specialty rice are also available such as Thai Jasmine and even Black Rice, this gives you economical alternatives to try new food at small amounts.

Kapeng Barako

SM Supermarket offers a wide selection of local coffee including Kapeng Excelsa, Kapeng Robusta and of course, Kapeng Barako Excelsa. You may even have your coffee beans ground for free!

Native Kakanin

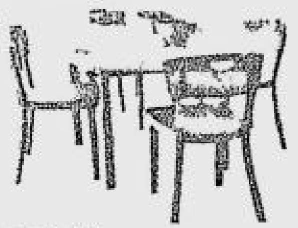
Batangas Ube Halaya, Kalamay Malagkit & Mais, Suman Balinghoy, Suman Tamalis, Suman sa Lihiya and other mouth-watering native kakanin are available for your take-home treat!

Sugarcane Juice

Stop over for a refreshing sugarcane treat at the juicing station near the Fresh section. Traditional fruit flavors are also available to quench your thirst.

More for your home

SM Supermarket Lipa is the first to offer home furnishings which include furniture sets, mountain bikes and an impressive range of toys and apparel.



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Big Blowout Raffle

As an opening treat, 50 MP4 players, DVD players and industrial fans are up for grabs when you shop at SM Supermarket Lipa! Just buy P500 worth of Yellow Tag items to join the raffle!

Fun family activities, surprise celebrity guest and other exciting events were lined up for the opening of SM Supermarket Lipa! Come & shop at SM Supermarket, at the ground floor of SM City Lipa along Ayala H-way, Barangay Marauoy, Lipa Batangas.

SATURDAY *Special*

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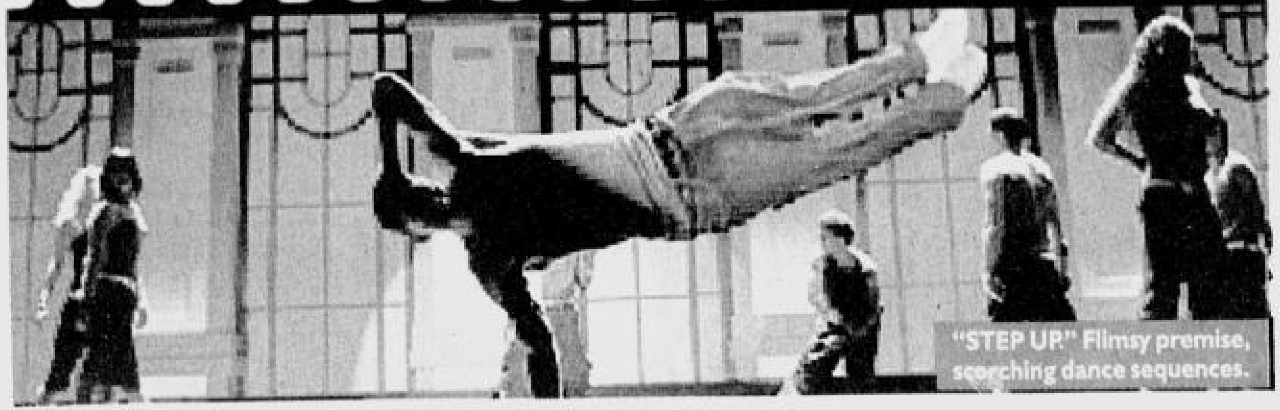
More skin and terpsichorean sizzle than cinematic substance



"STEP UP." Flimsy premise, scorching dance sequences.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Step Up"

D: Anne Fletcher

S: Channing Tatum, Jenna Dewan, Rachel Griffiths, Mario, Damaine Radcliff

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BAZ LUHRmann's "Strictly Ballroom" and Peter Chelsom's US remake of the acclaimed Japanese film, "Shall We Dance?," contemporary dance flicks like Liz Friedlander's "Take the Lead," Chris Stokes' "You Got Served" and the Patrick Swayze starrer "One Last Dance" almost always get mired in narrative cliché.

Anne Fletcher's "Step Up" is no different. But, when her movie focuses its camera on scenes that involve dancing, the production perks up and turns the screen into a scorching, pulsating cinematic canvass of energy and terpsichorean savvy.

Handsome, rap dancer Tyler Gage (Channing Tatum) is a world-weary slacker who lives with a foster family—and he's "heading nowhere fast." But, after one reckless misdemeanor, he is sentenced to 200 hours of community service in the school for the arts he and his friends have vandalized.

This is where he meets headstrong, classically-trained Nora (Jenna Dewan), who, by stroke of fate and movie-magic luck, suddenly loses her dancing partner, Andrew (Tim Macatena)—who gets injured—for the big dance showcase that everyone is excited about. After all, talent scouts from top dance companies are expected to watch the show!

Unsurprisingly, sparks indeed fly between Nora and Tyler—but, they couldn't be more different! Despite this, guess who ends up taking Andrew's place? Do the unlikely partners stand a chance at dance-hall glory? As Tyler intones: "You don't need to be a rocket scientist to figure that out!"

The movie's protagonists are no great actors, but, boy, can they move and groove! It's not easy to imagine fusing hip-hop and classical dancing, but it's been done before (remember Nicholas Hytner's "Center Stage"?).

Tatum and Dewan have a confident air about them that makes them stand out when they're in "performing" mode. And Fletcher manages to elevate her film's flimsy been-there, done-that premise by making a simple, straightforward movie about two kindred souls who get a shot at realizing their dreams—and find romance along the way!

PICACHE. Loses her reliable thespic touch.

"Twilight Dancers"

D: Mel Chionglo

S: Tyron Perez, Allen Dizon, Cherry Pie Picache, Lauren Novero, Anna Capri

Mel Chionglo's long-awaited big-screen comeback after 2003's "Xerex" is also about dancers, albeit a different breed. But, sad to say, his latest production is a major letdown—for most everyone involved in the film.

The R-rated movie follows the exploits of good friends, Dwight (Tyron Perez) and Alfred (Allen Dizon), as they are shoved deep into the bowels of the skin trade out of necessity and poverty.

Admittedly, we had high expectations for the film. Yes, the acclaimed director's third foray into the subculture of skin, male prostitution and strip dancing raises some valid thematic points, but it doesn't say anything new.

After a long list of *Pinoy* productions that tackled similar topics, however, you'd think an impressive team that includes Brillante Mendoza ("Kaleldo," "Masahista"), Ricky Lee, Cherry Pie Picache, Anna Capri, Joel Lamangan and Jerry Sineneng could do no wrong. Well, think again.

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11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 THE BREED
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
8 ETERNITY
9 WICKER MAN
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 CRANK
4 THE BREED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 PAGDADALAGANI MAXIMOOLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 SCOOP
12 THE BREED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 CRANK
2 YOUARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 WICKER MAN

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
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2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE BREED
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 BINIBINING K
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 SNAKES A ON PLANE
2 KUBRADOR
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 SNAKES A ON PLANE
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY LIPA
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 CRANK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU,ME AND DUPREE

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1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

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1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 CRANK
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 ELENA STAGE PLAY
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 WICKER MAN

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 BINIBINING K
7 RESERVED
8 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 BINIBINING K
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
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2 MONSTER HOUSE
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4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

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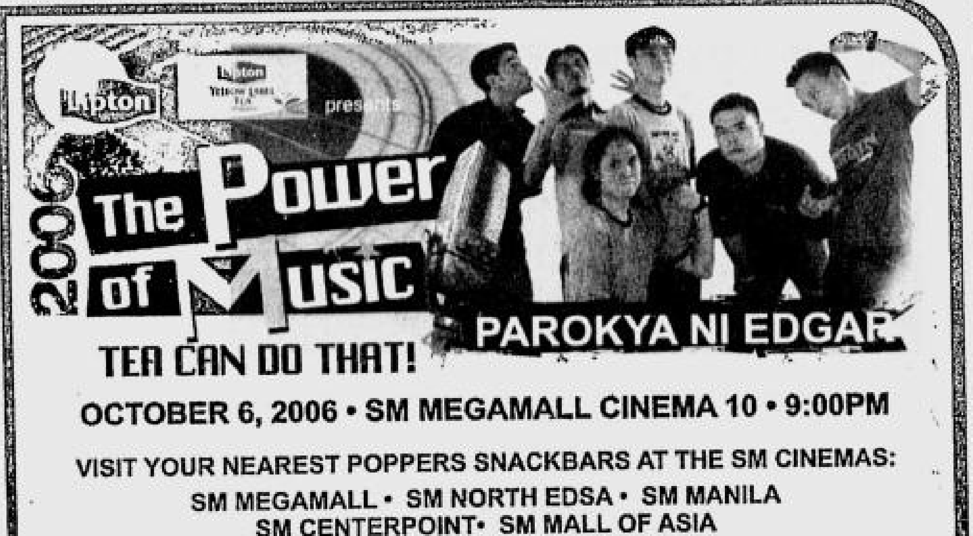

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Man's best friend turns nasty

By Noelani Torre

HELMED BY WES CRAVEN'S LONGTIME producer, the creature feature, "The Breed," continues Craven's tradition of cheap cinematic thrills, where attractive teenagers are killed in the story.

It follows the usual format of a group of young people heading off to a place far and isolated, where there's no cell phone signal and bad things—usually in the form of crazy people with sharp objects—await them.

Virus

In this instance, the baddies don't walk on two legs or carry axes; they walk on four, have sharp fangs, and carry a rabies-like virus of sorts.

Starring Michelle Rodriguez, Oliver Hudson, Eric Lively, Taryn Manning and Hill Harper, the movie is typical of its kind, and doesn't make innovations in style or plot. Still, this doesn't mean it can't be effective.

Cheap thrills are cheap, true, but they also deliver real thrills. And this kind of movie's typical audience—couples who are out on a date, and large groups of friends—are in it for the thrill.

In the production, man's best friend is the villain. Five college friends head out to a remote island for a weekend of fun and relaxation. Unbeknownst to them, the island has been overrun by a pack of insanely aggressive dogs.

HUDSON fights for dear life.

How these animals have gone *loco* is something that will be explained further on—though, not very well. They've apparently been genetically modified, which is why they don't behave normally.

But, they're also carriers of a virus transmittable to humans that makes a bite victim behave aggressively. It's all pretty vague, so we're supposed to take whatever the characters say or do at face value.

In any case, the dogs are mean man-eaters that are supposedly more intelligent than your usual Alpo-eating canine.

And they're certainly more intelligent than the humans in this film who, in accordance with horror movie rules, are a bit stupid. (You know, going into dark places all by themselves, not closing the car windows when there are a lot of leaping dogs out there, etc.)

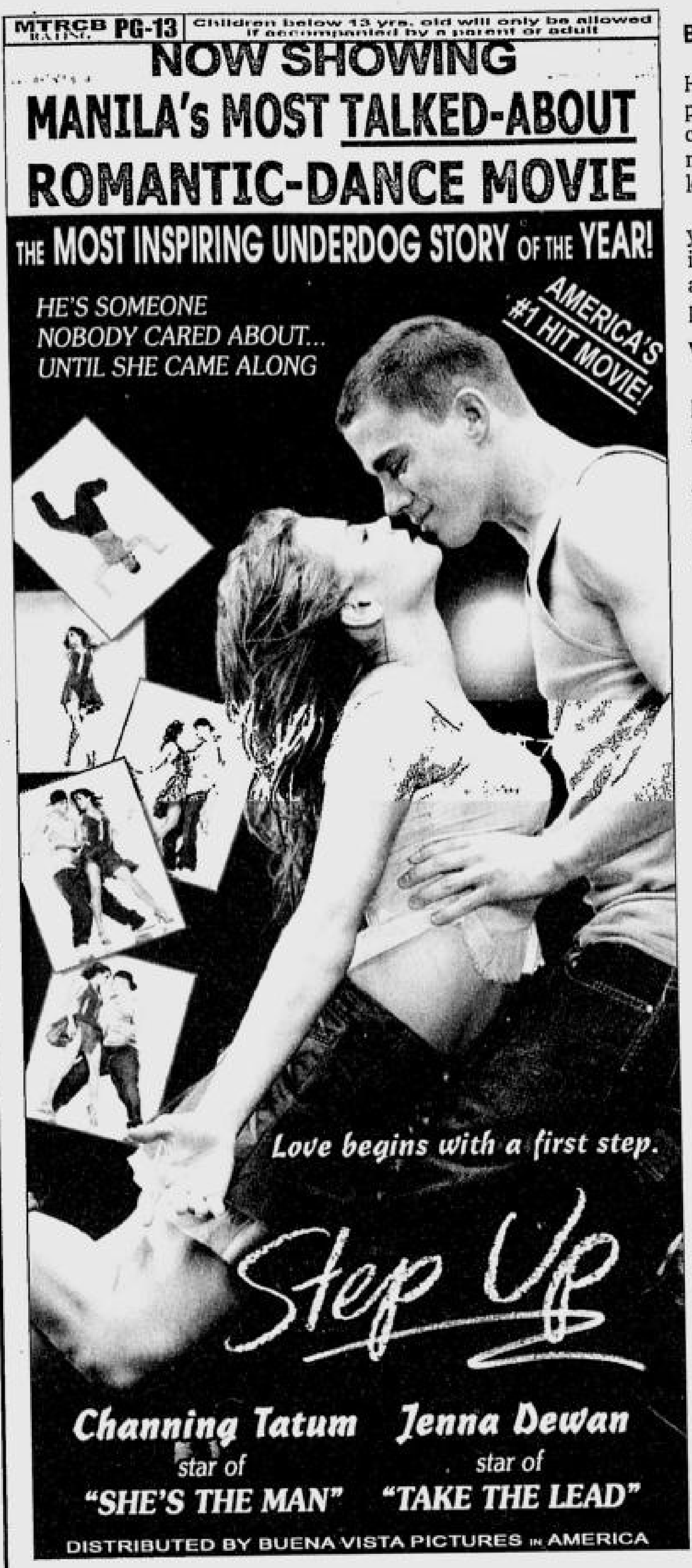
Gory details

Maybe, the humans are made stupid so that, if one of them dies, you won't waste time feeling sad, and spend more time focusing on the gory details of man being mauled by his canine aggressors.

The dogs attack scenes are effectively shocking. They're particularly gripping, because the production often uses real dogs and hardly any special effects. No CGI image can beat the urgency and terror conveyed by a huge, live, snarling German Shepherd.

The situations that the movie's characters are put into are farcical, but you tend to disregard all that when you're on an adrenaline high.

If you're a person who really knows dogs, however, some of the details here just won't wash!



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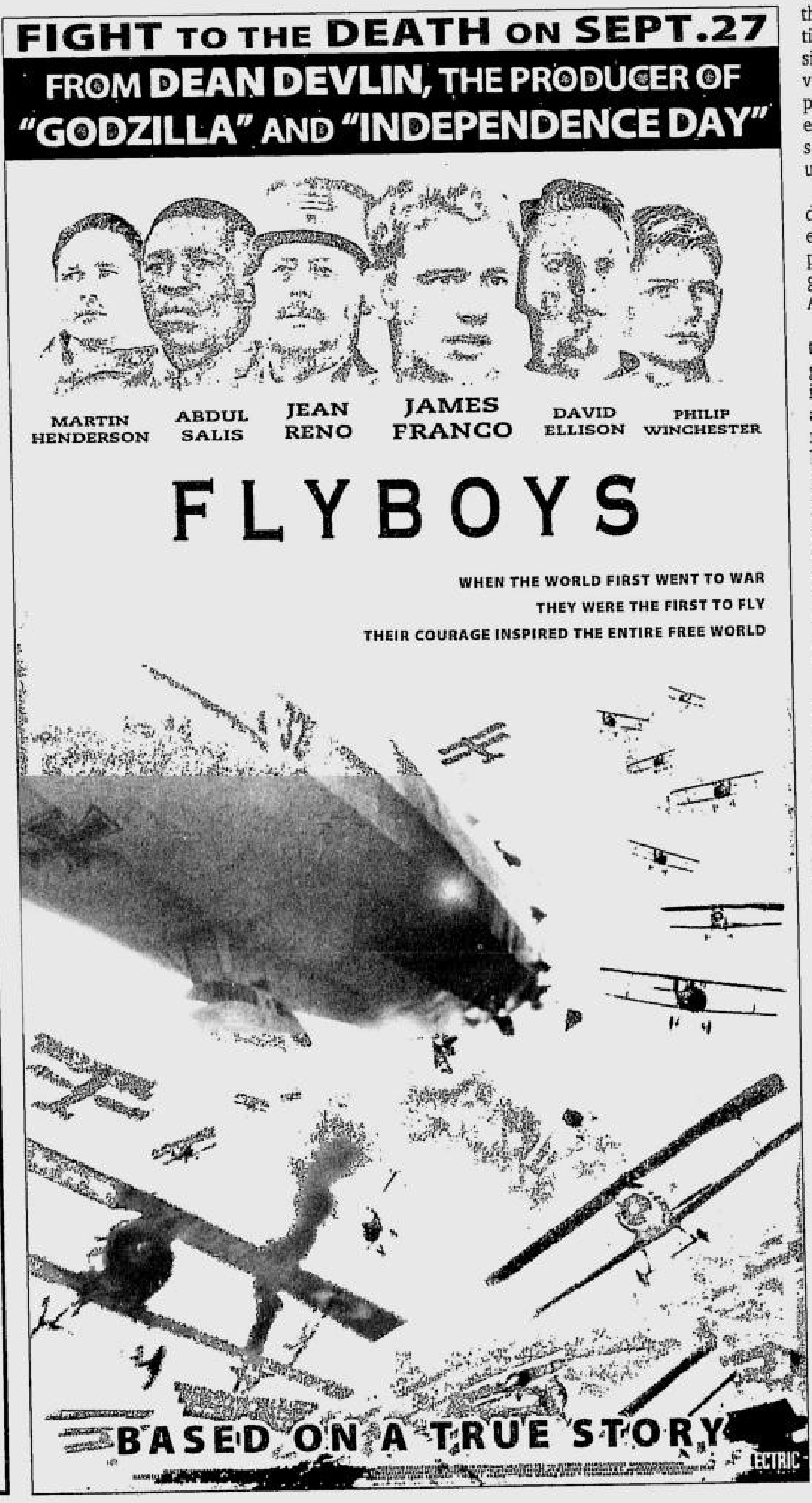

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THEY WERE THE FIRST TO FLY
THEIR COURAGE INSPIRED THE ENTIRE FREE WORLD
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Haydee Yorac, Eddie Mercado remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST SEPT. 12, WE JOINED RELATIVES AND friends of the much-loved and much-missed Haydee Yorac at the UP Chapel for a Mass to remember her on the first anniversary of her passing.

Together with *barkada* mates Behn Cervantes, Chito and Au Cobarrubias and Laurice Guillen, we recalled dear Haydee's sterling qualities of principle, honesty and courage in public service, her brilliance and commitment as a lawyer and teacher, and her unstinting love for life.

Legal icon

After the Mass, a program and dinner followed, at which friends shared recollections that further burnished Haydee's abiding, golden presence all over again. And, in each of our hearts, we treasured our own precious, moving or delightful memories that made the much-admired legal icon warmly human and accessible all over again.

For our part, we recalled visiting Haydee when she was desperately ill, and the scene reminded us of that scene in "ET" where the extra-terrestrial was being studied by an army of scientists.

There were numerous anti-infection precautions in place, all sorts of tubes were stuck into Haydee's weak body, and our heart went out to her, as she struggled for the breath of life.

Months later, she was feeling much better—and looked great—when she joined us for one our *barkada* dinners at Chito and Au's place. We knew Haydee had fully recovered when she zestfully tore into a mutual acquaintance who had done both of us wrong. The feisty Haydee had returned!

Fine example

Alas, it was not to be a permanent recovery, and Haydee finally left us. But, her great spirit, dedication and fine example stay on to continue to inspire us to also do good and to work for others, the high-flying Haydee way.

We also mourn the passing earlier this week of another friend and colleague, Eddie Mercado. Before we became Elvira Manahan's co-host on "Two for the Road," we were the pioneering talk show's writer and director, and its first male host, Joey Lardizabal, was replaced, after he fell ill, by Eddie Mercado.

When we worked with Eddie, we saw firsthand what a compleat professional he was. He was at the top of his game, hosting not just TV shows, but also a series of beauty pageants and many other presentations. Yes, his spiels were sometimes predictable, but he delivered them with panache.

He was also a popular singer in the then fashionable Frank Sinatra mode, and impressed us with his vast repertoire of songs—some 600 of them, all with lyrics written down in a handy bunch of notebooks he always had at his disposal!

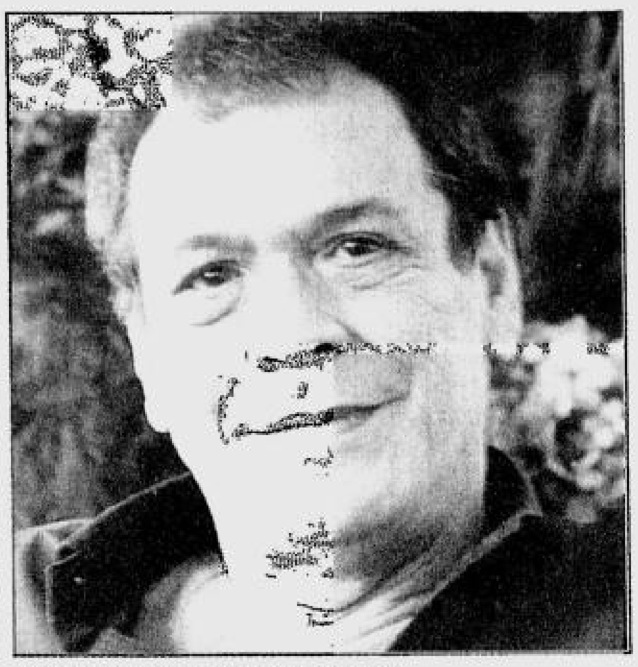
Child wonder

It was while working with Eddie that we met his wee niece, Snooky Serna, even before she became the little child wonder of Filipino films. We also got to befriend, Vicky, his wife then, and kept in touch with them through the years.

These days, many so-called TV hosts are ill-prepared for the job, since they think all they need to do is to look good and read prepared spiels written for them by somebody else.

We miss Eddie Mercado because he was a host in the true sense of the word, and to the manner born and trained. May the new generation of TV and show hosts learn from his sterling example.

YORAC. Unstinting love for life.


MERCADO. Compleat professional.

"BEBOT." Funky beat.

'Bebot' raises questions about misrepresentation of Filipino women

By Rica Arevalo

MOJOFLY'S "TUMATAKBO" SCORED BIG AT the recent MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards when it copped the favorite indie and best animated video categories. Lougee Basabas took over from Kitchie Nadal as the group's lead vocalist when the latter decided to go solo in 2003. Interestingly, Basabas wrote "Tumatakbo" when she was only 14 years old.

Throughout the video, the style is 3D animation—a first in the history of music videomaking in the country. Directed by the talented Dennis Sebastian, "Tumatakbo" shows a man smitten by D 'Amazing Luisa, a tightrope acrobat in a peepshow. The guy eventually joins his one true love in the "show."

Animated features

With a fairytale ending, the characters appear as look-alikes of those from popular 3D animated features, but the hard work Sebastian and his group put into the video is obvious. It was screened last summer at the 19th Singapore International Film Festival.

On the other hand, The Black-Eyed Peas recently premiered its new video, "Bebot" (Generation Two), locally. "Bebot" means a "hot chick." The video has raised questions among Fil-Am communities. It shows Jasmine Trias of "American Idol" and the Black-Eyed Peas riding a jeepney on their way to a barbeque party. We see people in their summer get-ups dancing in the streets. The "Bebots" are wearing skimpy outfits to show off their "assets."

Roots

Rapper-producer Apl.de.Ap is obviously proud of his *Pinoy* roots. He sang: "*Pag kumain, nagkakamay ng kanin*, chicken *adobo. Yung balut, binebenta sa kanto. Tagay mo nga ang baso, pare ko, inuman tayo*. Filipino."

Foreign fans are clueless about the words being used in the video, because they are in our native language. The music is upbeat and universal—when you hear the song, you can't help but dance to the funky beat.

Patricio Genelsa directed this music video, which has raised questions about the misrepresentation of Filipino women. Why use the title "Bebot," which connotes a sexy *Pinay*, and then erroneously link it with national pride? The connection may not be clear, but the beat just urges you to get on your feet and groove.

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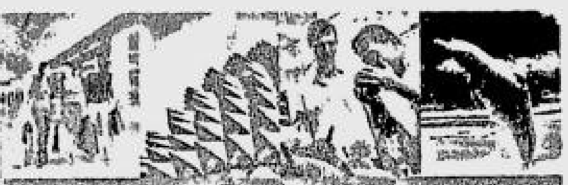

Our Events Calendar

September

3 - 17	Asian Football Confederation U-17 Championships
4 - 30	Singapore Biennale 2006
6 - 10	World Food Fair 2006
7 - 10	Barclay's Singapore Open
7 - 30	Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
8	Westlife Face to Face Asian Tour
8 - 17	Festival Mexicano 2006
8 - 28	World Press Photo Exhibition
14 - 30	DALI in Singapore
15 - 17	Cyberathlete Professional League Singapore 2006
20 - 30	Philips Championship NBL
21 - 30	Deepavali (Festival of Lights)
22 - 30	Hari-Raya Light-Up Celebration
23 - 30	Mid-Autumn Festival
28 - 30	ARTSingapore 2006
30	The Art of Cartier

October

1	Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
1 - 2	ARTSingapore 2006
1 - 14	DALI in Singapore
1 - 15	Mid-Autumn Festival
1 - 17	The Art of Cartier
1 - 29	Deepavali (Festival of Lights)
1 - 29	Philips Championship NBL
1 - 31	Singapore Biennale 2006
1 - 31	Hari Raya Light-Up Celebration
7 - 8	Vienna Boys' Choir
13 - 15	House of Lange
13 - 31	Singapore JewelFest
15	Singapore International Watch Auction
19 - 20	Christie's Asian Art, Jewellery & Watches Autumn Auctions Exhibition
19 - 29	Jewellery Time
20 - 22	Sotheby's Exhibition & Auction of Southeast Asian Paintings
28	6th Global Chinese Music

November

1 - 9	Singapore JewelFest
1 - 12	Singapore Biennale 2006
3 - 19	Notre Dame de Paris
4 - 5	59th Singapore Cricket Club International Rugby Sevens Tournament 2006
12 - 17	Asian Poker Tour 2006
15 - 17	Lexus Cup 2006
16 - 25	Singapore Garden Festival

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2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE
SCOOP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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Waltermart Center, China Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
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1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 DEAD OR ALIVE

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(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160
3 STEP UP
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DEAD OR ALIVE
5 TWLIGHT DANCERS

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 SCOOP

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2 STORMBREAKER
3 MONSTER HOUSE

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1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

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(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 THE WICKER MAN
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
5 STEP UP
6 SNAKE ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 THE BREED
9 TWILIGHT DANCERS
10 CRANK

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
3 (DOLBY) STEP UP
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 TWILIGHT DANCERS
4 STEP UP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

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Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BINIBINING K
2 SYHANGHAI LILY
3 THE NUN
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 TWILIGHT DANCERS
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)-(4449346)
1 CRANK
2 AMERICAN DREAM

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 BASIC INSTINCT-2
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU ME & DUPREE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 BINIBINING K
2 MY SUPER EX- GIRLFRIEND

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4 RESERVED

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4 WICKER MAN

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3 (DOLBY) MONSTER HOUSE

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4 AMERICAN DREAM

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2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

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2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
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1 BINIBINING K
2 GHOST INSIDE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 SEX SCANDAL
3 TAO LAMANG
4 BINIBINING K

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
2 BABY DOLL
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 MORTUARY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 S. P. L. KILL THE BENT WOLF
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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4 THE BREED
5 YOU ARE THE ONE/
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2 YOU,ME AND DUPREE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 DEAD OR ALIVE
5 STEP UP
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 SNAKES ON A PLANE
10 WICKER MAN
11 YOU ARE THE ONE
12 THE BREED

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 CRANK
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 JOSEPH THE DREAMER
5 THE BREED
6 STEP UP
7 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 I-WITNESS DOCU FEST
11 SNAKES ON A PLANE
12 WICKER MAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
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2 ETERNITY
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 THE BREED
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 CRANK
7 DEAD OR ALIVE
8 STEP UP
9 LITTLE MAN
10 WICKER MAN
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 STEP UP
3 THE BREED
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
8 ETERNITY
9 WICKER MAN
10 SNAKES ON A PLANE

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2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 STEP UP
4 THE BREED
5 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888
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2 CRANK
3 THE BREED
4 STEP UP
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 WICKER MAN
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 CRANK
4 THE BREED

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 STEP UP
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 DEAD OR ALIVE
7 PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 SCOOP
12 THE BREED

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 CRANK
2 YOUARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 WICKER MAN

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STORMBREAKER

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 CRANK
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 THE BREED
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

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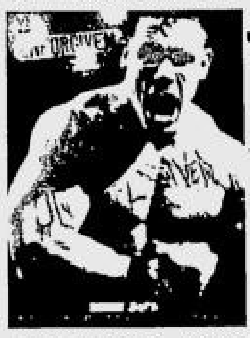

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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 BINIBINING K
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 DEAD OR ALIVE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 CRANK
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 SNAKES A ON PLANE
2 KUBRADOR
3 CRANK
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 SNAKES A ON PLANE
4 CRANK
5 SCOOP
6 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY LIPA
1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MORTUARY
3 AMERICAN DREAMZ
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 CRANK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 MORTUARY
4 YOU,ME AND DUPREE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 DEAD OR ALIVE
2 THE BREED
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 CRANK
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 ELENA STAGE PLAY
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
3 CRANK
4 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 WICKER MAN

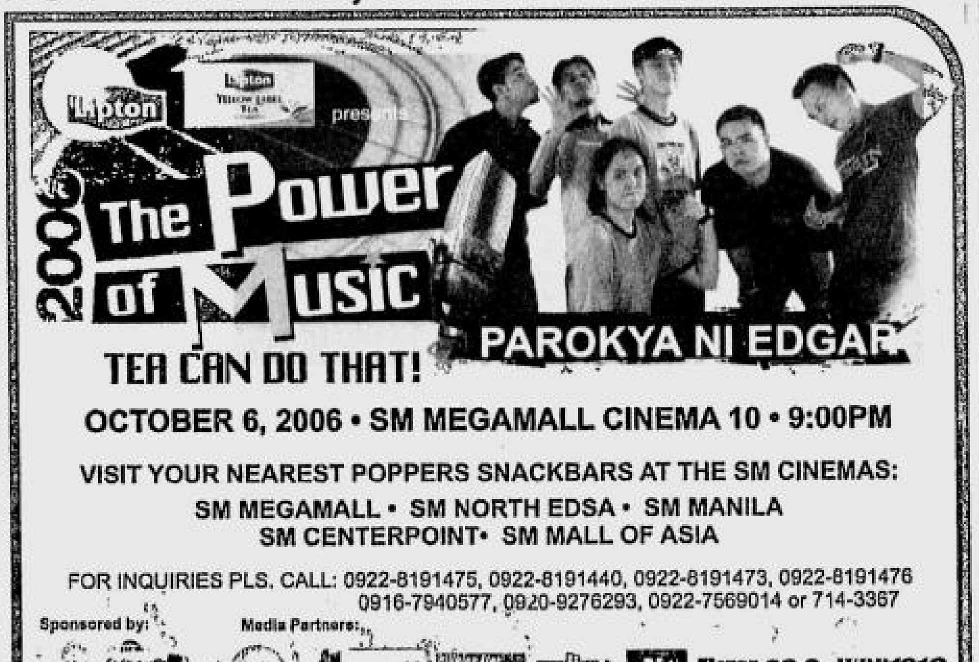
SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 RESERVED
3 MY SUPER X-GIRLFRIEND
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 BINIBINING K
7 RESERVED
8 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
4 STAY ALIVE
5 BINIBINING K
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR
BUY YOUR TEA, WATCH A FREE CONCERT!



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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

A good mother

Lotus Pond

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WHAT MAKES A GOOD MOTHER? Our spiritual teacher Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa once spoke to a mother to describe her responsibilities. Here are excerpts:

"A woman has to have a built-in devotional service to the Supreme Being—the carrying, giving birth to, and raising of God's children. Your primary role is to instill in your children close proximity to the Supreme Person—with heartfelt attachment that they can carry in their hearts. This is your service to God."

Service

"A mother cannot entrust her children to the Supreme Person unless she herself has a relationship with Him. Therefore, you must develop this bond. The service of being a mother sometimes gets little or no recognition, so you shouldn't feel bad even when you think it's fruitless."

"Children raised in a God-conscious family may lose their way in their teenage years. But, this does not always indicate failure on the part of the mother.

"Sometimes, a mother may not live long enough to see the fruits of her labor when her children finally decide to develop their spiritual nature. Even so, at the very least, they will develop a deep-rooted attachment to Him that will help them at the time of mortal death."

Less effective

"A mother should spend some time each day to nurture her relationship with the Supreme Being.

A GOOD/ F5

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 STEP-UP
MTRCB: PG-13
12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7:30, 10:00
2 DEAD OR ALIVE
MTRCB. PG-13
1 05. 3 15, 5:30, 7 45 10 00
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
MTRCB: PG-13
12 40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 MONSTER HOUSE
MTRCB GP 1.20, 3.20, 5 20
SCOOP
MTRCB PG-13 7:40, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
MTRCB PG-13
1 00, 3 15, 5 30, 7 45 10 00
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
MONDAY AND TUESDAY SPECIALS
(Except for "THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA")
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99 00 for Cinemas 1-4 P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
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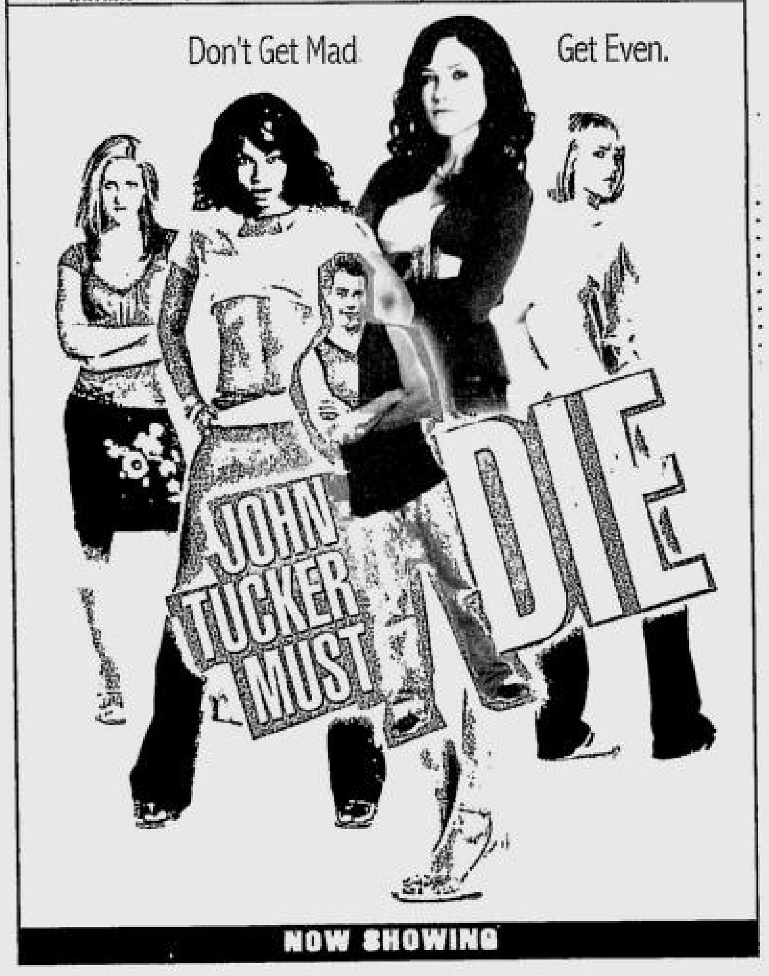
Call 633-7851, loc 171 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



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EYE-POPPING BOX OFFICE SUCCESS.
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AND THE WOMAN HE LOVES.
THE TRANSPORTER IS BACK!
NO.1 MOVIE OF THE WEEK
JASON STATHAM
CRANK
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

Sharon, Regine spearhead Viva's 'Silver Series'

By Remy M. Umerez

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1981, Viva Entertainment has been providing various forms of entertainment. Presently, the company's concert arm is active in producing concerts featuring both local and foreign acts.

Glossy movies

Known for its glossy movies when it first entered the entertainment scene, Viva is gearing up to become more active again in filmmaking. Next month's release of "Reyna," a sex comedy starring Keanna Reeves, signals the company's return to movie production.

Also in celebration of Viva's 25th anniversary, Viva has conceptualized a special compilation of musical gems in "The Silver Series," a commemorative 12-album set featuring some of Viva's most important stars.

The featured artists represent the company's triumphs in film, recording, television and the concert scene—a testimony to its contributions to local entertainment.

Spearheading the Silver Series is Sharon Cuneta, who is represented by two albums. One is made up of theme songs from popular Viva motion pictures like "Pagdating ng Panahon" and "Mahawi Man ang Ulap."

The second album contains Sharon's renditions of Vehnee Saturno's "Ikaw at Ako," "Kumusta Ka" and a medley of "Even Now" and "Somewhere Down the Road."

Friendship

The Megastar saw her star shine brightest when she teamed up with Viva at age 13. Now a freelance artist, she has maintained her friendship with the company through the years. Sharon's sense of loyalty and gratitude has endeared her to fans and colleagues alike.

Songbird Regine Velasquez also has two albums in the series: The first is a compilation of movie themes, which includes "Isang Lahi" (from "Gabi Na, Kumander") and "You Are My Song" (from "Wanted: Perfect Mother"). Her pop hits like "Urong-Sulong," "On the Wings of Love" and "Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang" are also featured in the second album.

The Silver Series will also release the songs of Jaya, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Freestyle, Lani Misalucha, Ogie Alcasid and Janno Gibbs.

CUNETA. Two albums in commemorative set.

A good mother

From page F4

A time away from your kids is good, because if you are always stressed out and overworked, your children will notice it, then you become a less effective parent."

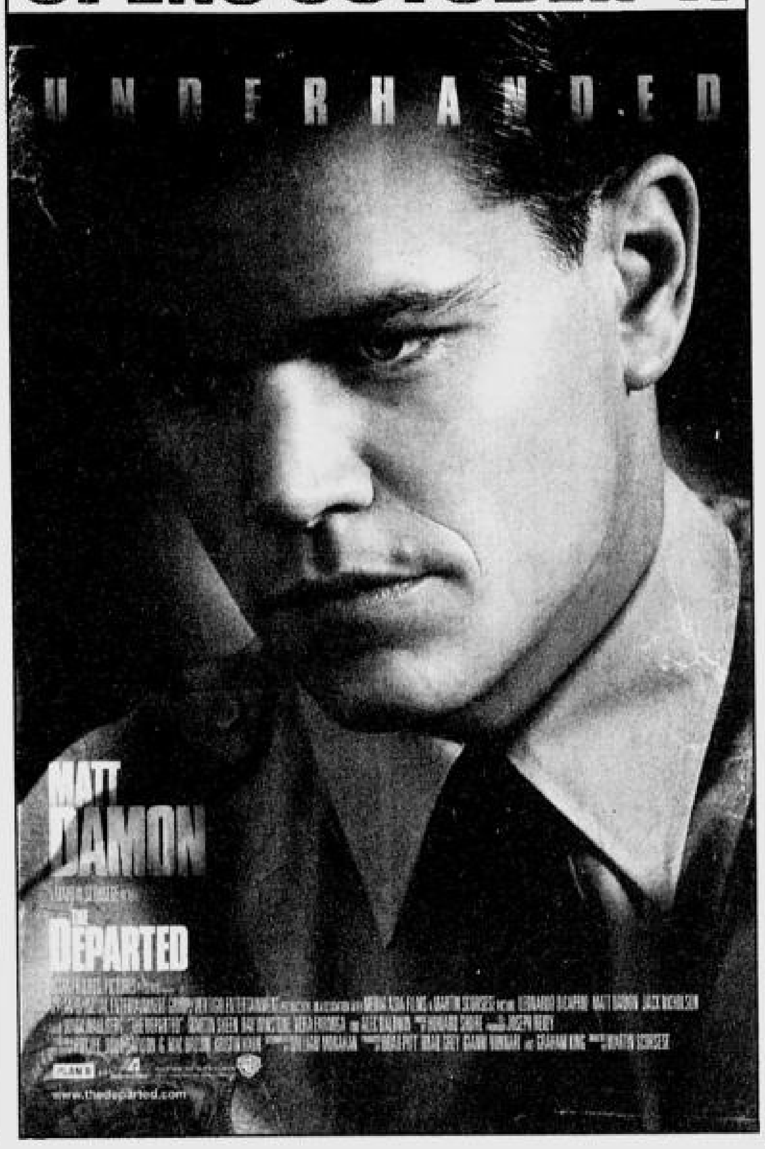
"Don't think that the Supreme Person is a whip-wielding master who works you to the bone. He doesn't like seeing you unhappy. You need to have fun, and to find a healthy balance in life so you can be an effective guide."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE PG13 1:50,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	MONSTER HOUSE G 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00 SCOOP PG13 7:45,9:55	DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE PG13 2:10,4:10,6:10, 8:10,10:10
THE BREED R13 12:10,2:10,4:10, 6:10,8:10,10:10	CRANK R13 1:30,3:30,5:30,7:30,9:30	STEP UP PG13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:25

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – FREE SEATING – MONDAY-FRIDAY.

OPENS OCTOBER 4!



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GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
2	STEP UP	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00	PG-13
3	SCOOP	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13
4	DEAD OR ALIVE	2:00, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13

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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	11:45 , 1:55 , 4:04 , 6:15 , 8:25 , 10:35	PG-13
CINEMA 2	SCOOP	11:15 , 1:25 , 3:35 5:45 , 7:55 , 10:05	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	THE BREED	10:30 , 12:35 , 2:40 4:45 , 6:50 , 9:00	R-13
CINEMA 4	STEP UP	12:00 , 2:40 , 5:15 7:50 , 10:30	PG13
CINEMA 5	DEAD OR ALIVE	10:35 , 12:40 , 2:45 4:50 , 6:55 ,9:00	PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM	OCT 07 , 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:30 PM
	OCT 13 , 2006	GENEVA C. AIZA S. TRUEFAITH, JAY-R. CHOCOLATE . JAY-R	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
	EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO . CLASSICO	8:00PM
	SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
	OCT. 7, 14, 21, 2006	AYEN LAUREL & RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:00 PM
		FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 TWILIGHT DANCERS	2 THE BREED	3 YOU ARE THE ONE	4 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE BREED	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 THX DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 KINKY BOOTS	5 CRANK	6 STEP-UP	7 YOU, ME & DUPREE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	2 STEP-UP		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 MONSTER HOUSE / AUSTRALIAN FILMFEST GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KINKY BOOTS GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX STEP-UP GUARANTEED SEATS	2 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE		
	3 THE BREED	4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	5 SCOOP	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 4TH AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL	2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	3 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	4 THE WICKER MAN
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 STEP-UP	2 TWILIGHT DANCERS		
	3 THE BREED	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 DOA: DEAD OR ALIVE	

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
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AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Dentsu Phils.' Mabuhay Tinapay Campaign Event September 23, 2006	RX Cheer Dance Competition September 23, 2006

GREENBELT — Samba Nights at GB 2
Sitti - September 27, 2006

Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents
THE BOOR & THE PROPOSAL
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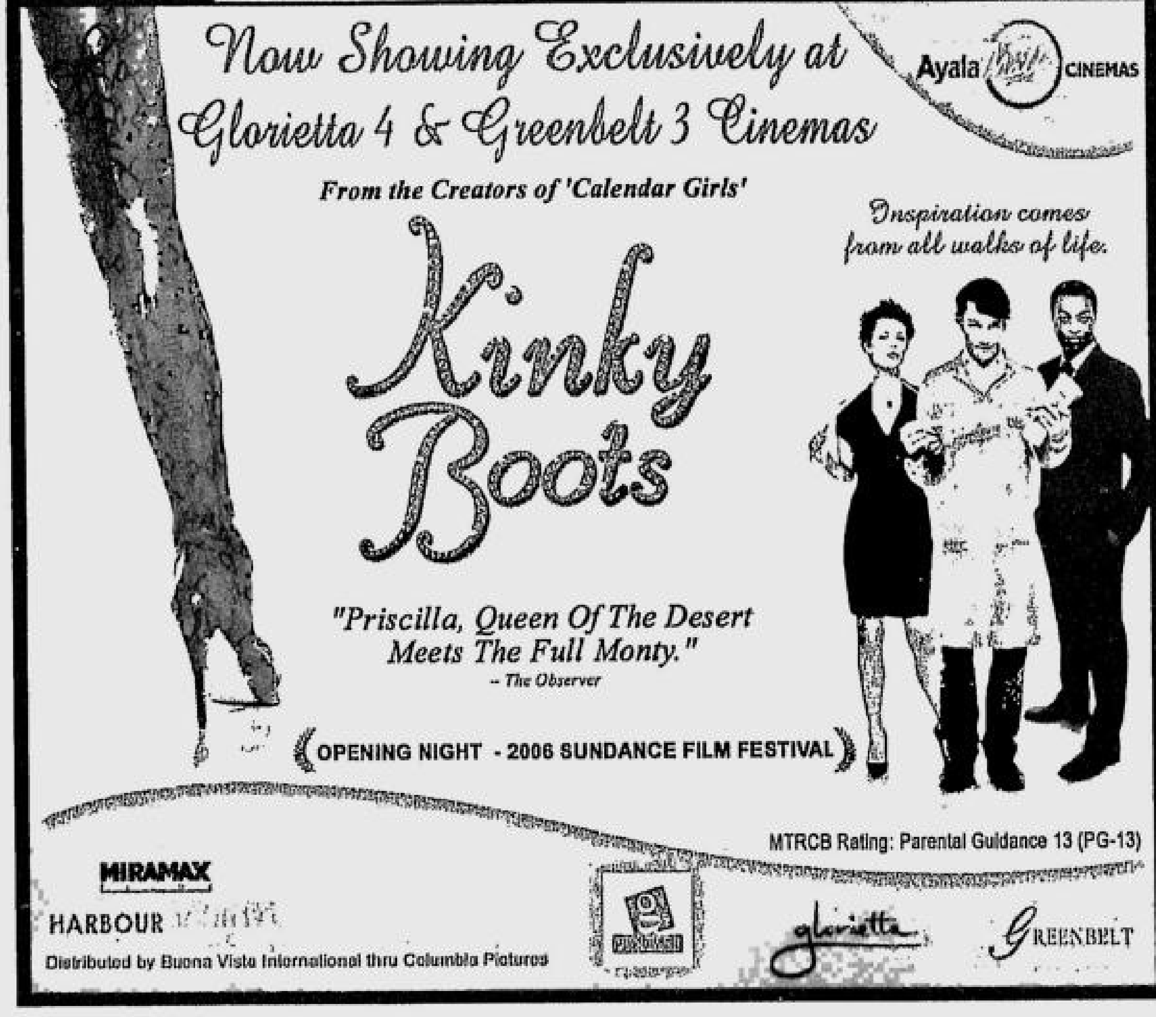
Ayala MUSEUM — Ode To The Pasig River
Extended until September 17, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



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Astoria Plaza is ideally located at # 15 J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Ave.) Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For inquiries, you can call 6871111. Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com, website: www.astoriaplaza.com.

Astoria Plaza is Managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

Fiesta San Miguel's 'Oktoberfiesta'

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S FIESTA San Miguel officially started 'Oktoberfiesta' with a kick-off party last Sept. 15. The popular comedy bands, Flipside and Ministix did a back-to-back concert entitled 'Just for Laughs'.

Fiesta San Miguel (FSM) is also celebrating its 3rd anniversary with 'Bottoms up at 3' - a happy hour promotion priced for only P300 net. What's great about it is that you will enjoy fresh brewed beer for three hours anytime between 6 to 10 p.m.

Aside from these, FSM is also offering 'High Five at 5' wherein, for a minimum of five persons availing of the 'Bottoms up at 3' will receive a complimentary appetizer.

Beer aficionados can also avail of the 'Pinoy Beer Match' - match your beer with food for only P440++ per person. Match your beer with Adobong Pizza, Hinornong Tahong, Sizzling Bulalo, Gambas or Sisig. Or you can match your beer with famous German dishes like German Pork Knuckles, German Sausage Platter, or Griebenschmalz.

So, party with the only restobar in a hotel setting offering fresh brewed San Miguel beer - celebrate Oktoberfiesta at Fiesta San Miguel.

For inquiries call 867-3333.

FAMILY BONDING IN CAMP JOHN HAY

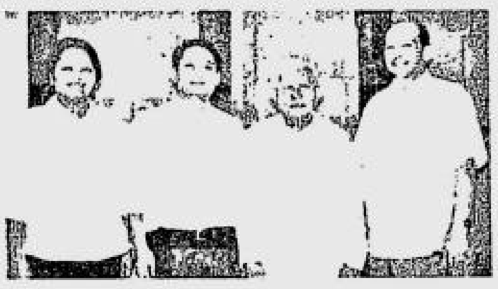
Family bonding is at its best in pollution-free Camp John Hay; there's something for everyone. The whole family can commune with Nature – while dad plays a round of golf at the world-famous Jack Nicklaus-designed Golf Course, the rest of the family can go hiking in the peaceful surroundings of the Eco-Trail. The children will be exuberant as they play amongst the majestic pine trees and great variety of flowers in the area. Camp John Hay – the best place for family bonding. See you there!

Saturday night dance fever at The Bellevue Hotel

THE ENTERTAINMENT AND LEISURE DESTINATION of choice in the southern Metro Manila area, The Bellevue Hotel, invites everyone to put on their dancing shoes for the exciting Bellevue Dance Party every Saturday night at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. The event relives the dance music fever of the seventies, sixties and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful night lights of the south. Shake your booty and join the hottest party to hit the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500 nett gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Lino Ed. Lim Foundation honors Filipino scientists

DR. LINO ED. LIM, NOTED PHILANTROPIST and renowned specialist in tropical medicine, recently announced this year's winners for the Lino Ed. Lim Educational Development Foundation Applied Science Awards. Now on its second year, the event aims to recognize outstanding research works by local scientists which contribute to the advancement of the country's knowledge and practice in Science and Technology. Shown in photo are this year's recipients (from left): Dr. Gliceria S. Pascua of Mariano Marcos State University, cited for fruits crops development; and Dr. Arnel Salvador, honored for his achievements in the field of semiconductor research and development; Dr. Herminio R. Rabanal, who was recognized for his pioneering work on aquaculture; and Dr. Severino S. Magat, renowned locally and internationally for his research on soil science, crop nutrition, and coconuts. The awarding rites will be held on Sept. 23, 12 noon, at the Lotus Ballroom of the City Garden Suites along Mabini, Manila, with Dr. Patricio Faylon, executive director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD) as keynote speaker.



People, Events & Products

Masci homecoming

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE MANILA SCIENCE HIGH School (MSHS or Masci) alumni your chance to meet your former mentors is on the alumni homecoming on Oct. 14, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the MSHS Auditorium. Also featured in this once-in-a-lifetime affair are the school's pioneer teachers, who heroically helped shape the minds of the young students in science learning, and the first recipients of such excellent mentoring, the Special Science Class of Batch 1963. To cap the affair, the Masci alumni will have a chance to shake a leg at the fellowship and free concert at 6 p.m., courtesy of MSHS Class 1981 silver jubilarians. Meanwhile, those who have contact numbers of former MSHS teachers, are invited to kindly inform the alumni foundation by calling telephone 527-5708 or 641-5060, e-mail dzc_ff@yahoo.com or text 0920-9116399 care of Dos Correa-Patag. Finally, support is being asked for the advertising campaign of the Catalyst, the Masci alumni newsmagazine. For details, please contact Erick Rubio batch '81 at 0917-793-3648, Noi Quesada 0918-9373670, Benjie Ducut 0917-8382183 or send messages through e-mail at frederick_rubio@yahoo.com.

Burn Baby Burn!

BURN, THE HOTTEST MUSIC AND LIFESTYLE magazine to hit the Philippines, will be giving you the biggest party of the year! On Sept. 28, 5 p.m., be at the Music Hall of the SM Mall of Asia for Burn Baby Burn: The Burn Music Magazine Launch Concert. Enjoy an amazing and diverse array of performers that includes reggae acts and rock-tastic bands, soul singers and spoken-word performers, jazz hounds and bossa nova beauties. Bamboo, Orange and Lemons, Imago, Barbie Almalbis, Pupil, Sitti, Sugarfree, Hemp Republic, Up dharma Down, Radioactive Sago Project, Spy, Johnny Alegre, Itchyworms, Hale, Sino Sikat?, Nina, Kamikazee, 6CycleMind, Chillitees, Moonstar88, and more exciting bands will be performing at the launch. Get in for free just by presenting the latest issue of Burn-the August-September 2006 issue, with either Gary Valenciano or the Red Hot Chili Peppers on the cover. Also get a chance to win loads of awesome prizes, including an Ibanez GRX 40 electric guitar with an amplifier, courtesy of Audiophile. So mark your calendars people, and celebrate with us! This event is made possible by Burn: The Music Magazine for Everyone, SM Mall of Asia, Audiophile, Colt 45, Xtreme Magic Sing, Mpio and Bratpack. In cooperation with Gerry's Grill, M1, Tower Records, Hero, Jack TV, Wave 89.1, NU107, 105.1, Jam 88.3, 103.5 Klite, Hinge Inquirer Publications and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Gardenia's 'King of Baking'

ANY DEVOTED BAKER WILL TELL YOU THAT baking is more than an art, it's an exact science. This is especially true for bakers of major bread and bake shops like Gardenia Bakeries Philippines, Inc., which has Ninoh Jallores as its Baking Operations Controller. Ninoh's job is no small feat. As Gardenia's Baking Operations Controller, his task is to lead in the formulation of new products, improve the quality of existing products, and evaluate ingredients to be used in baking. But he's not complaining. After all, he says baking has always been one of his greatest passions in life. Ninoh describes his work at Gardenia as "gratifying." Thanks to Ninoh, Gardenia now has at least 35 high quality products, making Gardenia the country's leading bread company. Currently, Gardenia offers bread products like its best sellers enriched Classic White Bread, High Fiber Wheat Bread, and Pandesal. With such an extensive and popular list of products brought about by Ninoh's passion for quality, value and perfection, you can be sure that the reign of Gardenia and its king of baking will certainly last through the ages

Forum on the electric power industry

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex) invites you to attend a forum entitled "The Long and Winding Road: Privatizing the Power Industry" scheduled on Sept. 28, Thursday, 1:30 to 5 p.m. at the Turf Room, Manila Polo Club, #17 McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Invited speakers are Hon. Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla of DOE, Rauf Tan of ERC, . Ernesto Pantangco of Pippa, Ramon Abaya of Pepoa, and Jesus Francisco of Meralco. The forum will consist of the following lead-ins: Power Plants For Sale: The Roadmap of Privatization, Electricity prices: How high the moon?, and The Spot Market for Electricity: Are we there yet?. Registration fee for Finex members is P1,000 and non-members is P1,500. For inquiries and reservations, please contact the Finex Secretariat c/o Marrie Ju P. Gaspi at tel. nos. 811-4052, 811-4187 or e-mail at mpgaspi@finex.org.ph

Pleasant surprise from the Chili Peppers

From page F8

as a surprise, then, that their ninth and newest release consists not of one disc's worth of material, but two!

"Stadium Arcadium" runs for a little over two hours and contains 28 songs—all new, mind you, with no remixes, covers or acoustic versions. This wealth of new material is a fanboy's dream come true. But, quantity doesn't necessarily equate with quality, though in "Stadium Arcadium," there's certainly a good deal of the latter, as well.

Catchy

Disc One—called Jupiter for no apparent reason—kicks off with "Dani California," a catchy number dealing with RHCP's favorite theme, California.

The whole album, in fact, is immersed in the California culture of Hollywood, dreams (broken and otherwise), sex, and so on. They are a tad darker—Dani California dies, for one—though the music is as extravagantly sunny as ever.

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
STADIUM ARCADIUM

THE PEPPERS' new album is darker.

In truth, it's hard to understand what vocalist Anthony Kiedis is singing about most of the time. Oh, you can understand the words, but in true Kiedis fashion, they don't form coherent thoughts.

Kiedis' lyrics are still as spaced-out as they've always been, though his voice has certainly improved over time (his getting into rehab probably helped).

Vital

The singer's talent is overshadowed by that of his band mates', however. They sound great from first track to last: Drummer Chad Smith lays down a solid and swingy rhythmic groundwork, lithely complementing the superb strings of bassist Flea (real name: Michael Balzary) and guitarist John Frusciante. The two musicians are all over the place—and thank God for them! They make even the more stolid, mid-tempo numbers sound charged and vital.

Revealing

Most of the better songs are in the second disc, inexplicably tagged this time as Mars, among them the revealing "Hard to Concentrate," the funky "Readymade," the quiet ballad, "If," and the bizarre "Animal Bar."

Its lax handling, as well as the fact that the album could've done without some of its songs, makes "Stadium Arcadium" not quite the unparalleled success it could have been.

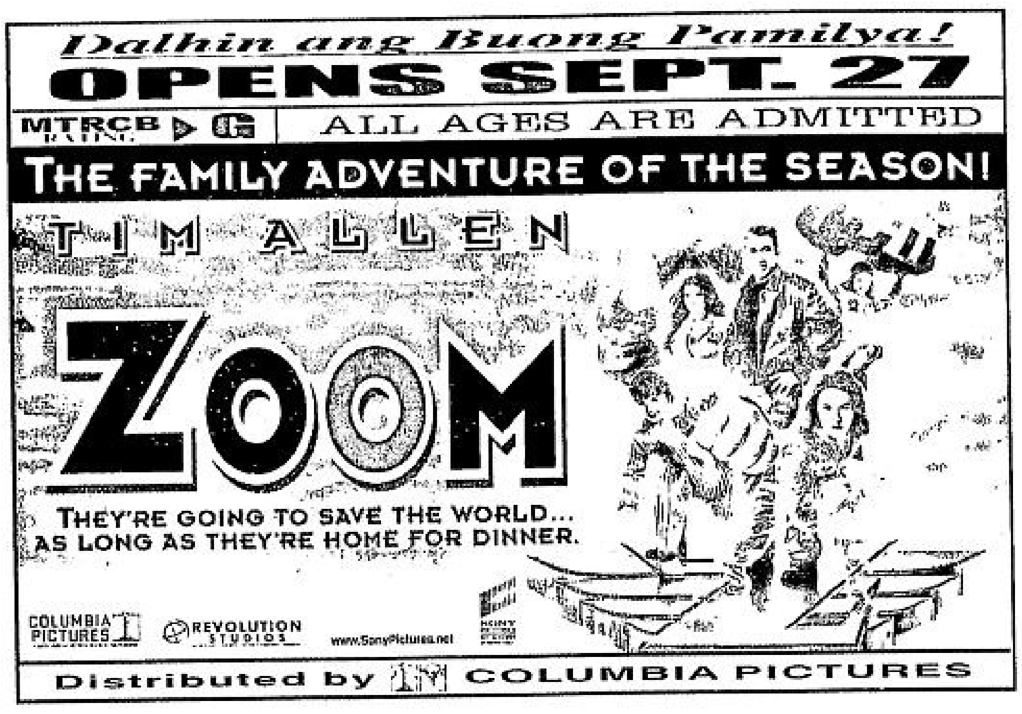
Still, what the Peppers have come up with is something that's pretty darned good!

More skin and terpsichorean . . .

From page F1

Indeed, an actor is only as good as his last performance—he can't afford to relax! But, other than Dizon, who delivers a stirring portrayal of the defiant macho dancer *cum* dance instructor who dreams of a better life for his mute wife and son, the usually reliable Picache and Capri, and a *really* hammy William Martinez, "lose" their thespic touch with disturbingly over-the-top performances.

Trite storytelling, badly-edited scenes, inferior sound quality, and crude production values further drag down the film. At one point, we overheard one viewer muttering: "*Parang* pirated copy!"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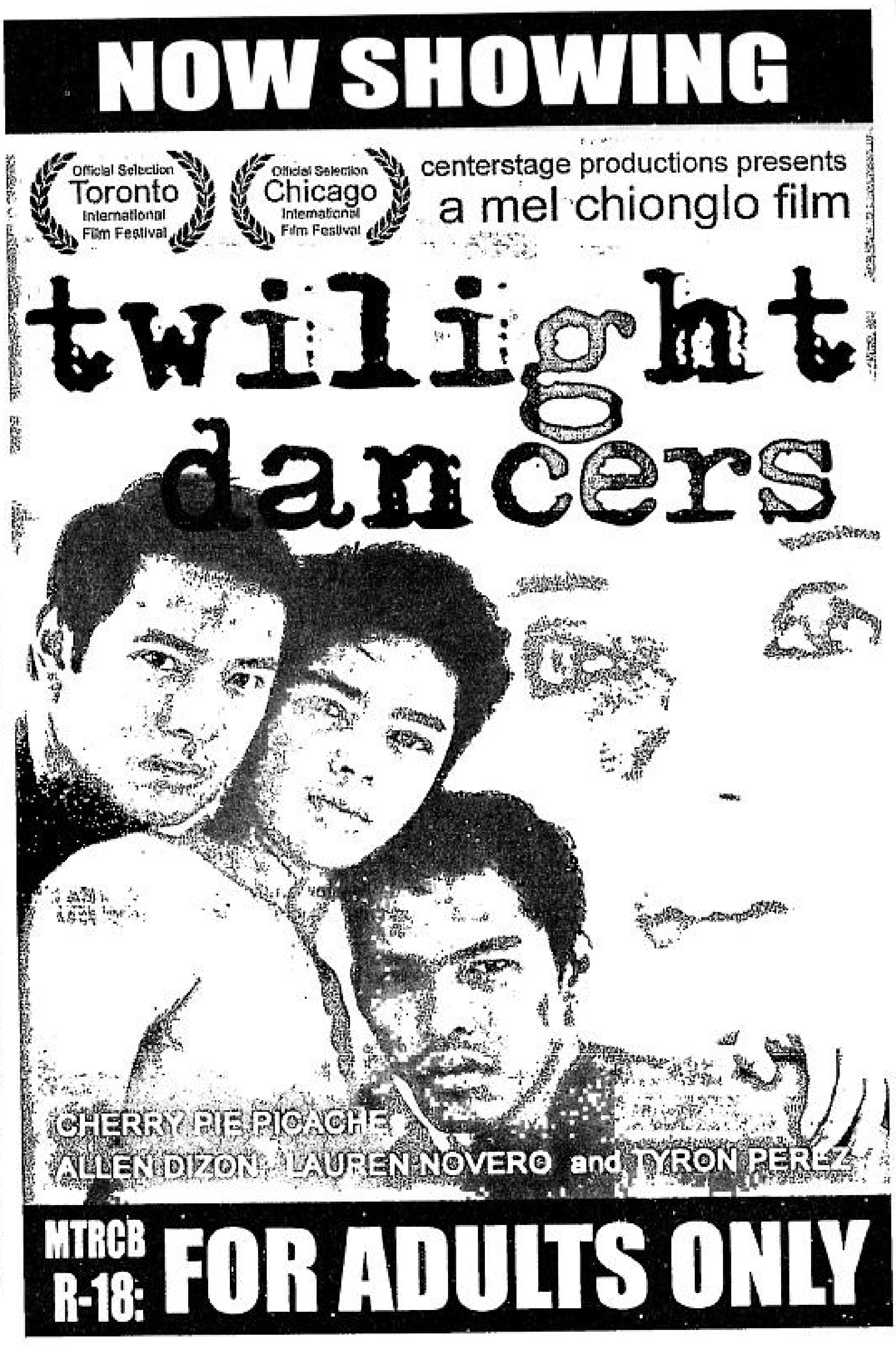
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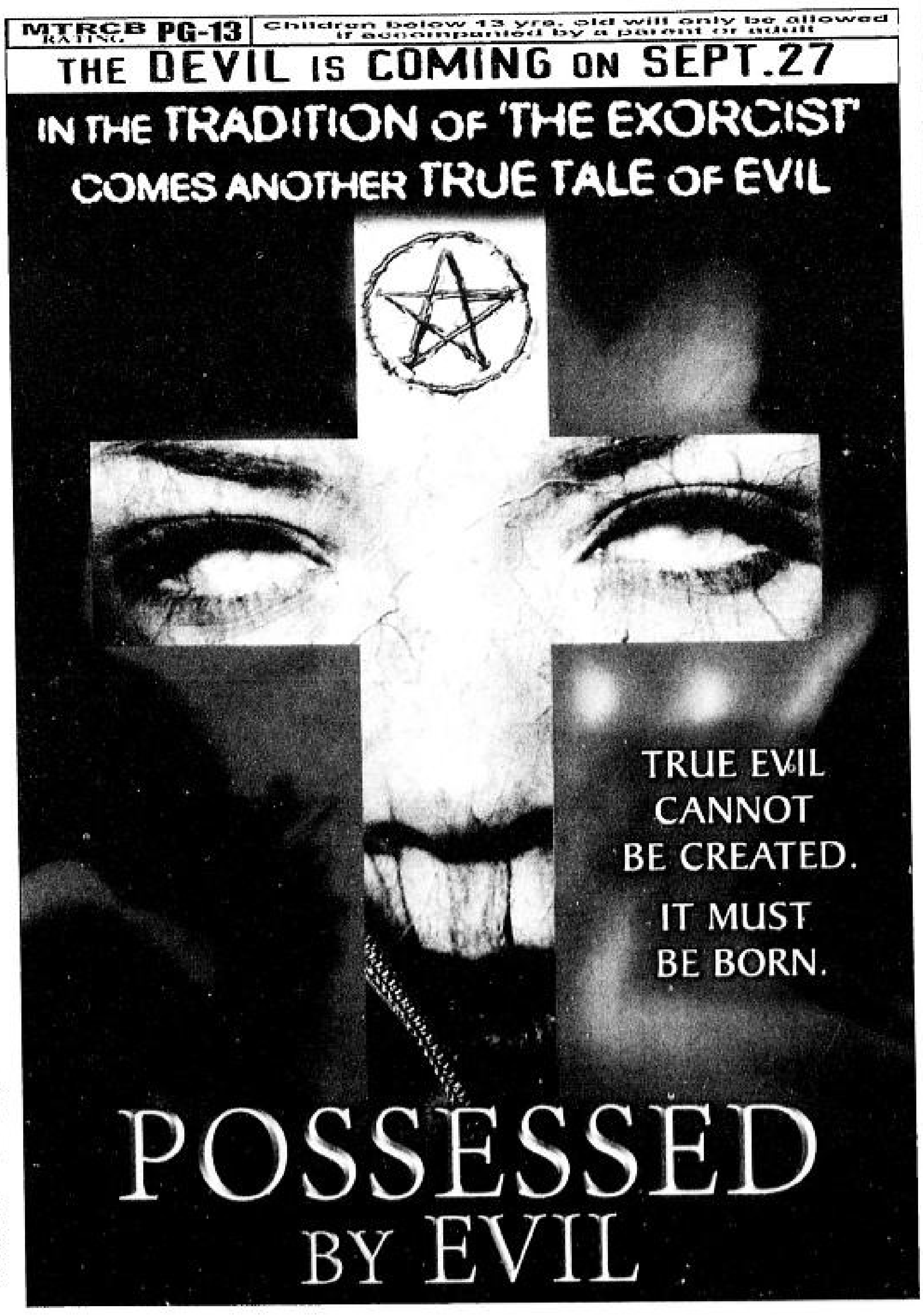
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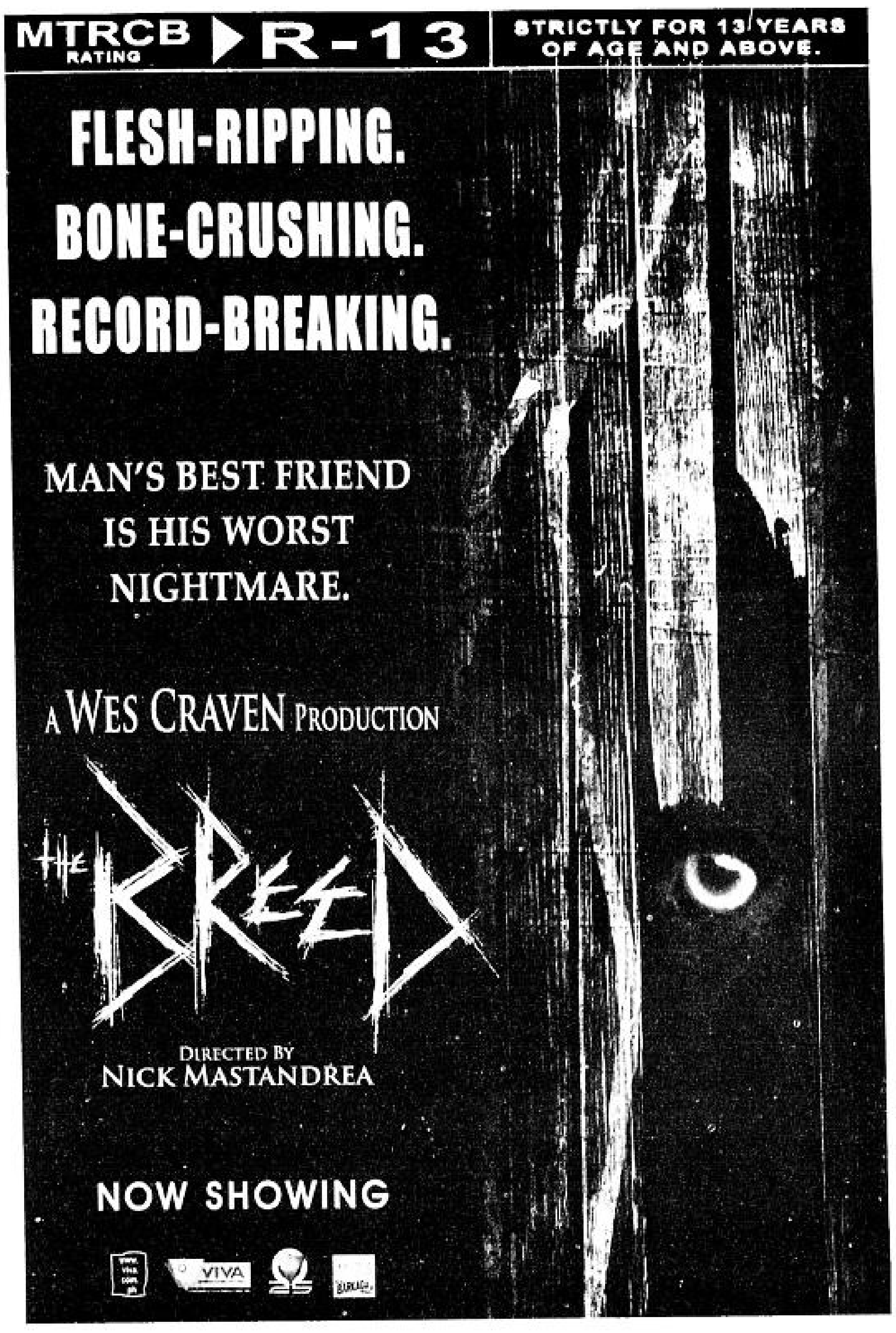
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
THE DEVIL IS COMING ON SEPT.27
IN THE TRADITION OF 'THE EXORCIST' COMES ANOTHER TRUE TALE OF EVIL
TRUE EVIL CANNOT BE CREATED.
IT MUST BE BORN.
POSSESSED BY EVIL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THE BREED 2:15 / 4.40 / 7.05 / 9:30	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 3:00 · 7:20 MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	YOU ARE THE ONE 2:00 / 4:30 / 7:00 / 9:30	
THE WICKER MAN 12:50 / 5:10 / 9:30	CRANK 2:30 / 6:50 SCOOP 12:20 / 4:40 / 9:00	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	STEP UP 1:10 / 3:45 / 6:20 / 8:55

ALIMALL 5

YOU ARE THE ONE 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	THE BREED 12:15 / 2:20 / 4:25 / 6:30 / 8:35	DEAD OR ALIVE 12:00 R3 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20
4 TWILIGHT DANCERS 12:00 R4 / 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	5 THE WICKER MAN 12:00 R3 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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See Posters for more details

Per DTI-NCR permit no. A1-727, series of 2006

Pleasant surprise from the Chili Peppers

By Noelani Torre

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS. Their latest two-disc set contains 28 songs.

THE RED HOT CHILI Peppers are known for their psychedelic fusion of funk and punk, their one-time fascination with illegal substances (that proved fatal when guitarist, Hillel Slovak, died from heroine overdose in 1988), and their one-sock stage performances (that is, performing while wearing nothing *but* a sock). They are not known for being prolific.

In the course of 20-odd years, the foursome from California has released only eight albums, one of which ("One Hot Minute," performed with former guitarist, Dave Navarro)—they don't even want to talk about!

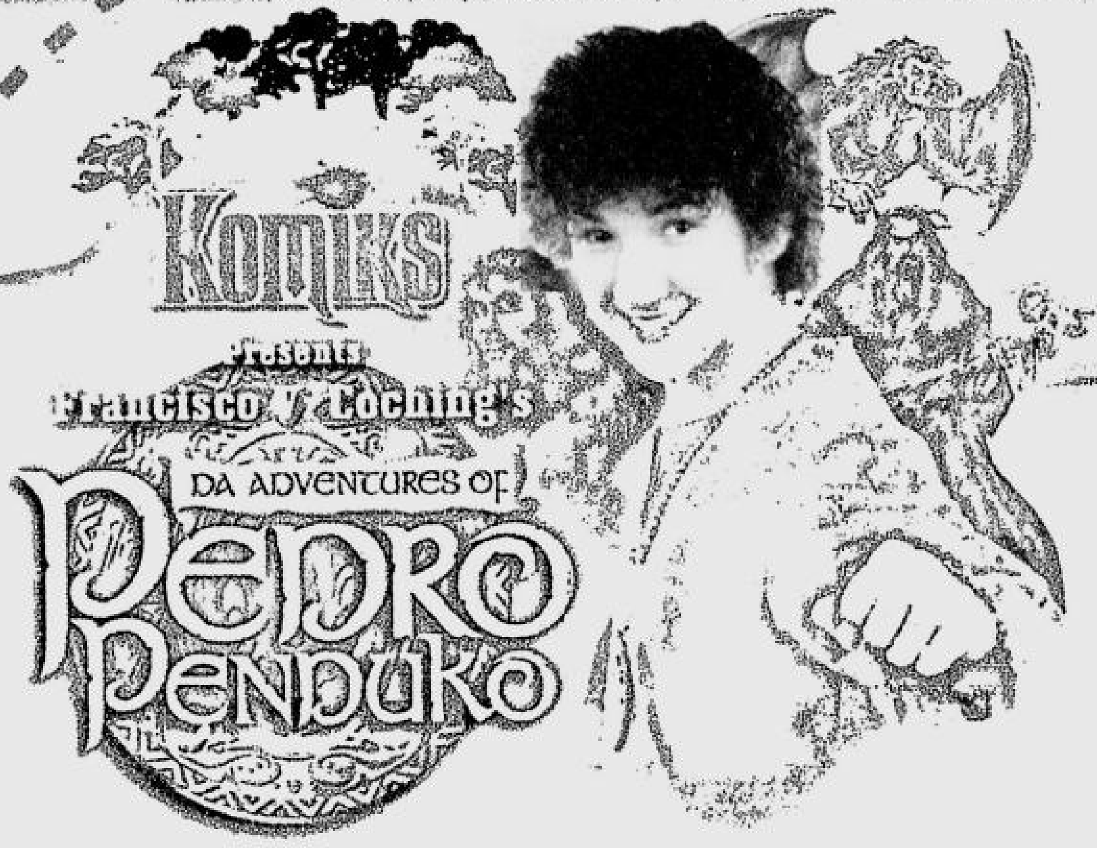
Despite this material paucity, the Chili Peppers' star has remained firmly fixed in the rock firmament, and the numbers they rake in are respectable, if not impressive. It comes

PLEASANT/ F7

DA ADVENTURES SA ABS-CBN BUONG LINGGO!

SATURDAY

1:00 *Wowowee*
3:00 *Nagmamahal Kapamilya*
Bayani Agbayani as
Fr. Agustin Advincula
"Ang bayani ng mga OFW sa Lebanon"
4:00 *Let's Go!*
5:00 *Star Magic Presents*
"The Sweetest Victory"
Zanjoe Marudo & Angelica Panganiban
6:00 *KOMIKS Presents*
Da Adventures of Pedro Penduko
Kapre, Manananggal at Mambabarang...
Tatlo laban sa nag-iisang Pinoy adventurer!
7:00 *John En Shirley with Matutina*
8:00 *TV Patrol Sabado*
8:30 *XXX* (Exklusibong Explosibong Expose)
9:30 *Pinoy Dream Academy*
Gala Performance & Nomination Night!
with solo performace by Iya Ginez & Jun Hirano
10:00 *Aalog-Alog*
with Nova Villa
11:00 *Sports Unlimited*



SUNDAY

12:00 *ASAP '06*
Banda Express Party
The Dawn • Boldstar • Sound
Sandwich • Sugarfree
Moonstar 88 • Drip
Your Song
"Bigay na Bigay" by Mano- Mano
Brenda Fox & Jaoqui Mendoza
Love Spell presents
Charm and Crystal
Starring: Gerald Anderson • Kim Chui
Rayver Cruz • Shaina Magdayao
6:00 *The BUZZ*
7:00 *Goin' Bulilit*
TV Patrol Linggo
Rated K
Alamin ang "PINAKA" sa Pinas!
Sharon
Basta banda, Sagot yan ni Mega!
6 Cycle Mind • Sandwitch at Kamikazee

Bukas ng gabi pagkatapos ng Sharon
Jun Hirano, lalabas na ng Academy!

Pinoy Dream Academy

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Gary V at 23
Mr. Pure Energy's best concert to date!

gary v @23

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Pagkatapos ng TV Patrol Wold
Deal Or No Deal
Sino ang bibigyan ni Banker ng P 1,127,000 offer?
Super Inggo Bagong super power ni Super Inggo malalaman na!
Bituing Walang Ningning Magkikita na kaya sina Dorina at Rosa Mia?
Crazy For You Ang OFW na si Janice, nagpanggap na sosyalera!
Napa-ibig ang playboy na si Joaqui, na amo pala niya. Kung magkakabukuhan na, mai-in love pa rin kaya sila sa isa't isa?
Pinoy Dream Academy
Hawak-kamay laban sa pagsubok ng buhay
Dalawa na ang lumabas...
Sino ang susunod na aatras?

ABS-CBN